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PLUS

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SAN FRANCISCO FOR FAMILIES
MY CITY: MIAMI

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50

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER

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HANNAH SAMPSON

WRITER, MY CITY: MIAMI

HOME BASE: I'm a Miami native and lifelong resident of South Florida, and I'm on the staff of the *Miami Herald*.

MIAMI VICE: Local ice cream shops are my kryptonite. I frequent the Frieze Ice Cream Factory, a family-owned shop by the Art Deco District in Miami Beach. I get coconut—and sometimes I add a scoop of key lime pie.

THE SUN ALSO SETS: People who move away talk about missing the Miami skies, which are almost always stunningly blue but can also be violent and stormy and, at sunset, riotously colorful. My secret spot for watching the spectacle is a vacant lot on Biscayne Bay, with a path to the water's edge. For a view that's less secluded, people pull over on the bridge connecting Palm and Hibiscus Islands in Miami Beach.

BEACH READS: *The Interestings* by Meg Wolitzer made me nostalgic for summer camp, even though I never went. Kimberly McCreight's *Reconstructing Amelia* was the perfect flight-delay distraction.



GEORGE W. STONE

EDITOR AT LARGE, "THE TRAVELER 50"

CURRENT BASE: Singapore. It's the world on a plate: jumbled neighborhoods, mixed-up languages, pioneering urban planning, boundless cultures, friendly people. Living outside the U.S. has reoriented my outlook. Here, China is the superpower, Asia is the travel region, and the Eastern Hemisphere drives the current.

HAPPY PLACE: Munich's Englischer Garten in midsummer: drinking Augustiner Weissbier, picnicking on the Schönfeld meadow, and cooling off with a frigid dunk in the stream.

POWER PLACE: Skeleton Coast, Namibia. The quietest quiet. The darkest skies. The brightest stars. The strangest insects. Ruby-flecked beaches, humming sand dunes, fairy circles.

FUTURAMA: I envision clairvoyant travel planners, teleportation, antimatter luggage, and language pills—all of which would probably ruin the travel experience, but I can't help wishing for them nonetheless.

UP IN THE AIR: I recently floated above Florida in the Goodyear blimp. I'd welcome a zeppelin tomorrow.

CRYSTAL BALL: Millennials will venture farther off the map on journeys motivated by volunteer work and cultural engagement. The world they inhabit will define our future bucket lists.



SUSAN SEUBERT

PHOTOGRAPHER, "UNDER THE INFLUENCE"

HOME BASE: Portland, Oregon, and, for part of the year, Hawaii.

OREGON TRAIL: A few Oregon wine-makers, such as Cameron Winery, are making Burgundian-style pinots. Here in the Willamette Valley we have Domaine Drouhin. The family has been making wine in France since the 1880s; now the Drouhins call Oregon a second home.

BIG BREAK: In Maui, I start surfing at 6 a.m. I grew up in Indiana, terrified of the ocean, and my first surfing foray left me coughing and crying. Several years later, my husband persuaded me to take a private lesson in Waikiki. I managed to stand up, and I looked down and saw the fish, the reef, the world moving under my board. That moment changed my life. Now I can drop into head-high waves.



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STATE-OF-THE-ART STAYS AROUND THE WORLD



From left: The Rosewood Abu Dhabi, whose design is inspired by the glistening Arabian Gulf; Oxygen-enriched rooms in Palacio Nazarenas in Cusco; The Shard building, one of the tallest in Europe, is home to the Shangri-La London hotel.

Architects of today's new hotels are artists who design spaces to evoke a mood, revive the senses, and tell a story. Cutting-edge technology and contemporary design can bring fresh experiences, even in the most ancient of settings. Here is a sampling of hotel debuts that feature future-forward settings and amenities. **Just remember that no matter where you stay, with Chase Sapphire Preferred® you earn 2X the points on your travel purchases.**

ROSEWOOD ABU DHABI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

In a city known for tremendous growth and innovation, the Rosewood Abu Dhabi is leading the charge in development on Al Maryah Island and in Sowwah Square, in the new central business district. Sleek and elegant design is inspired by the Arabian Gulf, and in-room iPads help you control TVs, temperature, and more. Nine dining options include the first Catalan restaurant in Abu Dhabi and modern Lebanese fare. There's even 24-hour personalized butler service for every single room.

PALACIO NAZARENAS CUSCO, PERU

In colonial Cusco, the gateway to Machu Picchu, Palacio Nazarenas occupies a former convent, now outfitted with 55 sophisticated suites and the city's first outdoor pool. While ancient ruins are displayed under glass and 16th-century fountains dot the courtyards, the hotel is awash in modern South American delights. Oxygen-enriched rooms help guests adjust to Cusco's high elevation, and other amenities include a private bar with Pisco sour makings, underfloor heating, Peruvian marble bathrooms, and locally made furnishings.

THE EFENDI HOTEL ACRE, ISRAEL

With a much needed crop of new hotels, Israel is more enticing than ever. The Efendi Hotel, in the ancient port town of Acre, is owned by local legend Uri Jeremias. Two palaces have been meticulously restored, now boasting 12 rooms, and the best sunset-viewing terrace in town. Modern design seamlessly melds with 1,500 years of history. The ebullient Uri might let you give a friendly tug to his famous long white beard as he regales you with tales of Acre.

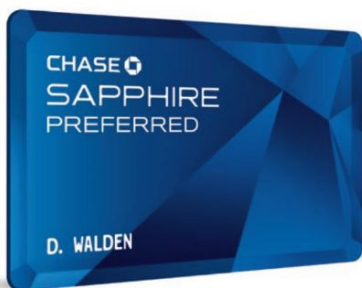
SHANGRI-LA LONDON, ENGLAND

The Shangri-La London (slated to open in October) occupies levels 34-52 in the soaring spire of the Shard, one of the tallest buildings in Europe. Groundbreaking technology matches the distinctive architecture, like the body-contouring "Shangri-La Bed," and climate control that complements a sun-shielding system. More traditional amenities will include afternoon tea in the hotel's cake shop. You can indulge knowing that you'll get 2X points on travel and dining at restaurants with **Chase Sapphire Preferred®**. **Learn more at chasesapphire.com/preferred.**



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Giza, Egypt, circa 1928

A New Chapter in Travel

FOR 125 YEARS the National Geographic Society has been front and center in the world of exploration. Following on the heels of pioneers such as Hiram Bingham in Peru and Jane Goodall in Tanzania are travelers like you and me. *Traveler* magazine came along in 1984 and celebrates its 30th anniversary beginning in December. I've edited the magazine for 16 of those years—and it's extraordinary to see how we've kept pace with the dramatic changes in how, where, and why we all travel (see "The Traveler 50," on page 79). This issue debuts a complete redesign that puts the shine on what we do best—you-are-there photography, personal storytelling, deep culture, insider authority. *Traveler* also now becomes part of National Geographic Travel, a new enterprise that combines the Society's many travel assets—including books, expeditions, seminars, and digital properties—to bring you the expertise of one of the world's most formidable travel authorities. *Traveler* is no longer a stand-alone

***Traveler* now becomes part of National Geographic Travel, a new enterprise that combines the Society's many travel assets.**

magazine; it will tap the global resources of the Society in new ways to benefit you. Our Expeditions group offers 169 trips in more than 60 countries, hosted by some of the world's top explorers; we interview one, National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah, on page 50. We produce more than 70 *Traveler* guidebooks, plus such titles as the new *Four Seasons of Travel* and upcoming *Where the Locals Go*. We offer tablet versions of the magazine—and 15 international editions, from the United Kingdom to China. You will find us all over social media and the Web (see our travel and adventure sites, and the award-winning blog Intelligent Travel). And, of course, we champion great travel photography with our photo contest and expert-led photo seminars. As always, you can count on National Geographic Travel for fresh ways to experience our world.

—KEITH BELLOWS

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National Geographic Traveler reports on destinations of distinction and character, and supports efforts to keep them that way—believing that to enhance an authentic sense of place will benefit both travelers and the locations they visit. For more information, visit travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable.

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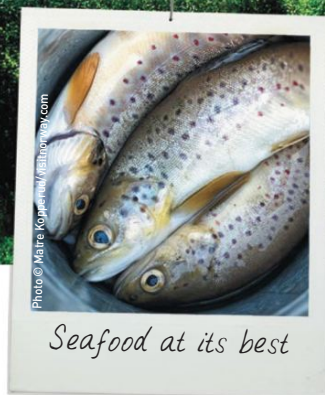
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Travel With Us to Antarctica

On page 98, writer Kenneth Brower journeys to the southernmost continent aboard the ship *National Geographic Explorer*. Led by a team of expert naturalists, you can re-create his voyage on a guided trip with National Geographic Expeditions. Cross the Drake Passage, kayak among icebergs (and penguins), witness up-close cameos by whales, hike up peaks and across ice fields for soaring views, visit historic Port Lockroy, and become immersed in the booming cries of thousands of gentoo penguins.

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THE YELLOW BORDER STILL LIGHTS UP A ROOM—AND NOW MOBILE DEVICES, TOO

Since 1888, National Geographic has connected with the public in myriad ways—in person, in print, and, increasingly, digitally, such as the new City Guides for iPhone and iPad (available for download at the App Store). Also debuting this anniversary year: “A New Age of Exploration: National Geographic at 125.” On view at the Washington, D.C., museum and headquarters, the exhibit mounts backlit magazine covers (right), rare photographs, and artifacts ranging from Everest climbing gear to a dinosaur skull cast.

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BOOK LAUNCH FOR EVERY TRIP THERE IS A SEASON

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FLEET UPDATE

Charting New Horizons: One Ship, Ten Pacific Adventures

When the *National Geographic Orion* sets sail for the high seas of the South Pacific in March 2014, the 53-cabin ship will become the newest addition to the National Geographic/Lindblad fleet, taking travelers to Palau's floating gardens, Borneo's orangutans and jungles, Papua New Guinea's coral reefs, Easter Island's mystical *moai* statues, and more.

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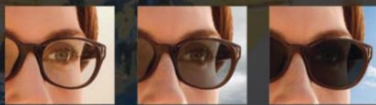
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ICELAND

Where: The Blue Lagoon is a restorative oasis among the volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, and waterfalls that evoke the ancient sagas of Iceland's Viking past. If you don't have time to circumnavigate the whole island via Ring Road, experience Norse culture and geothermal wonders in and around Reykjavik. Browse Viking treasures in the National Museum, visit the Hallgrímskirkja church, Iceland's highest structure, then head outside of town for a soak in the Blue Lagoon.

Don't miss: The tectonic rift valley at Thingvellir National Park. Gullfoss, Europe's largest waterfall. Birding and whale-watching on Iceland's surrounding isles.

When: May through September offers the longest days and best driving conditions. In winter, the days are shorter but you may see the aurora borealis.



PERU

Where: The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is just a fragment of the 14,000-mile network of roads that once crisscrossed the mountain, rain forest, and desert terrains of the lost Inca Empire. The journey begins at Chilca, in Peru's Urubamba Valley, and reaches its highest point at Warmiwañusca (Dead Woman's Pass) at 13,779 feet. Whether you hike the full trail or get a little help from the train or bus, the reward at reaching the top is immeasurable. The mystery as to why the Incas built Machu Picchu still remains.

Don't miss: The Intihuatana or "hitching post of the sun," a mysterious abstract stone construction that ancient priests may have used to study the heavens.

When: Best during the drier months of May through October.



MONTREAL

Where: This cosmopolitan city is on the culinary cutting edge, a soulful stew of the best of old French and creative, contemporary. Visitors will find a mélange of restaurants—from BYO-wine bistros to delis to fine-dining classics—serving up world-class local fare. Signature staples include smoked meats, fresh fish, delightful cheeses, and maple syrup-infused desserts and pastries.

Don't miss: *Poutine*, Quebec's special french fries dressed up with gravy and cheese curd. Award-winning Toque! is worth the splurge. Other faves: the open-kitchen bistro Le Quartier Général, Old Montreal's Garde-Manger, Mamie Clafoutis Bakery, the hip Snowden Deli, and the super-hip F Bar and Bar Furco.

When: April through November, when fresh foods are in season.



SWISS ALPS

Where: The Glacier Express unveils a panorama of snowcapped peaks, dense forests, rushing rivers, Alpine meadows, and mountain villages as it traverses a picturesque route through the Eastern and Western Swiss Alps. Departing from the chic ski resort of St. Moritz, the train climbs into the mountains, with views of glaciers, larch-filled valleys, and tiny villages huddling on the mountainsides, punctuated by sudden plunges into darkness as you enter tunnels cut through the rock.

Don't miss: The climb over the Oberalp Pass; crossing the Rhine Gorge, known as the Swiss Grand Canyon; the Aletsch Glacier descending to the Rhone Valley; and, of course, the famous jagged outline of the Matterhorn looming over Zermatt.

When: Take your pick. Skiers prefer winter, hikers summer.



SALZBURG

Where: Salzburg is a music mecca in the heart of Europe, where some of the masters of classical music lived. In and around the city, with side trips to Vienna, Prague, and Budapest, you can glimpse the cultures that inspired them and hear their works in some of the most stunning concert halls and opera houses in the world. Visit Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg and one of the city's most beautiful music venues, the 17th-century Schloss Mirabell.

Don't miss: Museums dedicated to Strauss, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Beethoven in Vienna; Budapest's Academy of Music's Grand Hall and the Opera House.

When: Any time of year, but book in advance for the Salzburg Festival (July through August) and Vienna's New Year's Concert and Carnival (January to February).



GREAT BARRIER REEF

Where: Australia's greatest natural wonder and the world's largest coral reef runs for more than 1,250 miles along the coast of Queensland, from Cape York to Fraser Island. Its tropical waters include many islands and act as an aquarium for hundreds of corals, some 2,000 species of fish, and a diversity of plant life, all part of a dense and fragile ecosystem. Above water, you can spot manta rays, sea turtles, sharks, dugongs, and dolphins—with even more treasures on view to those who dare to go below.

Don't miss: Snorkeling or diving, kayaking, boat tours, air tours, whale-watching, and island-hopping.

When: March through November.



BOTSWANA

Where: The Big Five Safari includes the stars of African wildlife: lion, leopard, Cape buffalo, rhino, and elephant. Start your trip at Chobe National Park, where elephants are found in the floodplain of Botswana's Chobe River. Get up early to look for animals in the coolness of early morning. Next head southwest into Okavango, to explore the delta by canoe, on the lookout for hippos and crocodiles. Then go southeast to Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, where dry lake beds watered by summer rains swarm with creatures after sundown.

Don't miss: Side trip to Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River.

When: May to October. Allow a week or more.



KYOTO

Where: Tour the ancient city, once Japan's imperial capital, where its centuries-old temples and shrines still stand in tribute to its gloried past. Visit the Nijo Castle, one of Kyoto's several UNESCO World Heritage site landmarks, built by the first Tokugawa Shogun. Follow the Fushimi-in-ari Shrine's thousands of vermillion torii gates to the trails that lead to the wooded forest of the sacred Mount Inari. On a hillside above the city stands the eighth-century Kiyomizu-dera, or "pure water temple," surrounded by shrines.

Don't miss: At the Nanzen-ji Temple take a short walk through the forest to the Oku-no-in Shrine. Explore Gion, Kyoto's famous geisha district.

When: Best in fall or during cherry blossom season in April.



ANTARCTICA

Where: Go on an epic voyage to this vast and remote region, where the icebergs floating past your ship can be as large as ships themselves. The landscape is strangely surreal, highlighted by wildlife sightings that add to the sense of wonderment. Fur seals catch a ride on ice floes and seabirds glide alongside the ship, while all aboard anxiously await the sighting of a whale spout or tail fluke. Zodiac boats zoom you across the water to visit colonies of gentoo or king penguins, guaranteed to make you smile.

Don't miss: Brave the frigid air on deck to look for several types of whales that roam these waters: humpback, blue, minke, sei, and even killer.

When: December to February; mid-January to see penguins caring for their chicks.



BEHIND THE LENSES

National Geographic photographer **Annie Griffiths** has traveled the world on assignments for more than 20 years. She's just back from Iceland, an exotic land of geological extremes, and shares her photos of that spectacular "Sights of a Lifetime" journey here:

nationalgeographic.com/digitalnomad/iceland.

Griffiths wears Transitions lenses when photographing in the field because they quickly adapt to changing conditions, from clear indoors to just the right shade outdoors, allowing her to get the best shot possible. A discerning eye like Griffiths's needs to be protected, and Transitions lenses block 100 percent of UVA and UVB rays. For more information, go to transitions.com.



Illicit ivory: no longer the elephant in the room

"I often have to stay in motels along I-95 and am absolutely paranoid about bringing home bedbugs. I feel safer after Christopher Elliott's article."

—BETSY McCALLUM ON THE INSIDER, JUNE/JULY 2013

historical Mount Rushmore trivia (The Icon, June/July 2013). "Though the article mentions in passing the mountain's origin as sacred to the Lakota, it whitewashes the area's bloody history, and overlooks the treaties the United States broke with the Lakota to gain control of the mountain. Additionally, the Lakota became famous for their reluctance to be photographed. Blasting the faces of conquerors into their holy mountain is one thing, but creating a giant statue of one of their most respected leaders [the under-construction Crazy Horse Memorial, 15 miles away] adds insult to injury."



PICTURE PERFECT

"That Old Bali Magic" (June/July 2013) enchanted Virginia Gilstrap of **Santa Fe, N. Mex.**, recently back from time on the island. "I felt so connected to the worshippers in Desa Tebuana [above], I held the photo to my face, wishing I could crawl through the pages and take my place."

DILLICORPIS (ELEPHANT), RAYMOND PATRICK (PEOPLE)

Trail of Elephant Tears

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READERS JUMPED to action over Costas Christ's column about the recent rise of elephant poaching in Africa (Tales From the Frontier, June/July 2013), voicing their disapproval of ivory consumption by China and the Catholic Church with letters to officials.

"I thought the days of these massacres were behind us," wrote Kent Kraemer of **Toronto, Ontario**. "Let's hope articles such as yours will raise awareness to 1980s levels, so that governments will once again rally to protect wild elephant herds. I have become involved in ocean conservation, particularly regarding the plight of the world's sharks. Your comments about the mixed signals from legal ivory transactions reigniting global demand resonated with me. This same phenomenon is happening in the shark fin trade. With legal supply, demand will not diminish, leaving no way to protect animals. The old ways have to change."

On behalf of the Vatican, the Rev. Federico Lombardi

responded to letters from readers concerned about the use of ivory in religious icons. In addition to making points about the Vatican's awareness campaign, he added: "We would like to observe that the slaughter of elephants often occurs in countries where human conditions are very precarious and tragic. We must all be engaged in support of elephants and others that suffer from exploitation."

China has recently taken steps toward conceding that a problem exists, yet it continues to be the world's biggest market for ivory. And although Lombardi acknowledged an elephant problem, his letter failed to mention ivory. Costas Christ asks: "Why is it so hard for the Vatican to issue a statement to clergy worldwide that condemns any buying or selling of ivory by the faithful? To date, they have withheld rebuke."

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Joshua Grapes of **Los Angeles, Calif.**, admonished us for our lighthearted approach to



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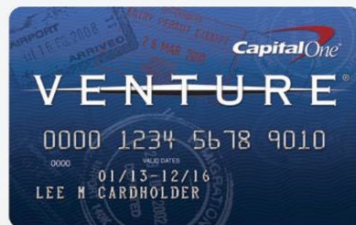
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WHERE TO GO NOW

BEST OF THE WORLD

China's
Yungang
Grottoes,
page 26

"Walk as if you are kissing the
Earth with your feet."

—THICH NHAT HANH

Inside

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Košice, Slovakia 30

Las Vegas, Nevada 32



Frederick Eversley's rosy lens on Crystal Bridges

Bentonville: The Bilbao of the Ozarks?

MILLION-DOLLAR ART, IMAGINATIVE hotels, and top chefs. The 2011 opening of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art cued a cultural shift, bringing Walmart heiress Alice Walton's unrivaled collection (Gilbert Stuart's "George Washington," Norman Rockwell's "Rosie the Riveter") to this northwest Arkansas town better known as the birthplace of the big-box empire. "Historically, art communities started with artists, then galleries, then—maybe—world-class museums," says local artist and curator Dayton Castleman, explaining how Bentonville has turned that model on its head.

Near Crystal Bridges, 21c Museum Hotel's art gallery captivates passersby 24 hours a day (à la chandeliers in wigs), while native chef Matthew McClure (a James Beard winner) preps updated favorites like pudding cake and rabbit and dumplings at the Hive. The Crystal Bridges effect is rippling throughout the region: New sculptures line the Arkansas River in Little Rock, Fort Smith has unveiled its own art museum, and creative galleries thrive in between. —**STEVE LARESE**

■ **TIP: AT CRYSTAL BRIDGES, DINE ON A GLASS-ENCLOSED BRIDGE, AND EXPLORE GARDENS AND OZARK WOODS ON 3.5 MILES OF TRAILS.**

ATLAS

Arkansas Ozarks



Alice Walton once purchased \$20 million of art by phone in one day—while on a horse.

INTERNATIONAL MAPPING

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A giant Buddha in Cave Three of the Yungang Grottoes

Northern China's Stone Temple Pilots

A BUDDHA CARVED into rock at the Yungang Grottoes has looked over the bleak plains of northern China for more than 1,500 years. This seated, 82-foot-tall figure (above) stands out among the 51,000 Buddhist statues enshrined here in a honeycomb of stone grottoes built in the fifth to sixth centuries. Pilgrims journey to this UNESCO World Heritage site in Shanxi Province through the gateway city of Datong, a former imperial capital turned soot-stained coal city. But those industrial scars are fading. This fall, the local government finishes a five-year rebuilding of the Ming-era city

walls, largely stripped down to their earthen foundations over time. Within the new walls, elegant Phoenix Pavilion still serves up its version of *shumai* dumplings, craved by China's last empress, Cixi. Not far away, Huayansi, a nearly thousand-year-old Buddhist temple, astonishes with well-preserved clay statues, including a serene female bodhisattva with still visible red and gold paint, her bronzed lips parted to reveal delicately chiseled teeth. Her steadfastness echoes in a city where pride in the past shines again. —LISA GAY

■ TIP: TRY LOCAL DELICACY BRAISED RABBIT HEAD AT A STREET STALL.

ATLAS

Datong, China



East of Datong, the Hanging Temple has clung to a cliff since the fifth century.

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Inspiring new ways



Washington's Olympics lure anglers to rivers such as the Hoh (pictured) and, starting in 2018, the Elwha.

A Dam Smart Move on the Olympic Peninsula

A HUNDRED YEARS after the first hydroelectric dam opened on the Elwha River in Washington's coastal Olympic National Park, river advocates cheer the near completion of the biggest dam removal project in U.S. history. After a century in captivity, the steep, muddy Elwha again gushes seaward as it scours rocky banks, carves unpredictable channels through old-growth lowland forests, and ultimately froths into rapids—to the delight of rafters clamoring to explore these free-flowing waters. It's a watershed moment for the Olympic Peninsula, as chinook (king) salmon have

begun spawning upstream. Pacific populations are expected to swell from 3,000 to 400,000, regenerating an ecosystem of some 130 species (from insects to black bears) and allowing fishing by 2018. And in a surprising twist, the emptying of a reservoir revealed a sacred site only known in legends to the local Elwha Klallam tribe. "This is so much more than a fish story," says Lynda Mapes, author of *Elwha: A River Reborn*. "It's an emerging new world." —**ELAINE GLUSAC**

■ **TIP: TO EXPERIENCE THIS CHANGING LANDSCAPE, HIKE THE FIVE-MILE HUMES RANCH LOOP TRAIL, OR TAKE A SEA KAYAK TOUR.**

ATLAS

Olympic Peninsula



Here in 1993 a family found part of a 2,900-year-old Indian basket.



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MAINE (USA), 2012

THE SNOW

When I graduated from nursing school, my fiancé marked the occasion by giving me a Victorinox Swiss Army watch as a present. For 18 wonderful years it was part of my life. I took patients' pulses with it at the hospital, it made sure I was on time to catch flights for unforgettable holidays, and it reminded me and my children to do homework or play games. It even recorded the precise seconds my children came into the world. And then one fall day it simply vanished! I looked for it everywhere and in every corner for days on end. Eventually, in frustration, I gave up the search. A long, snowy winter followed. It took four months for the several feet of snow to melt. And then, one spring day, there it was, my beloved watch – in the middle of the garden. I carefully wiped it clean, fitted it with a new battery, and held my breath – and it began to tick, just as it always had.

Anita Kelloway, 2012

Victorinox products are a companion for life. What experiences have you had with Victorinox products? Share your story at swissarmy.com





Hlavná Street courses through the oldest part of Košice.

Slovakia Gets Its 15 Minutes of Fame

A TRADING HUB during the Hungarian Empire, Košice (ko-sheet-seh) has a heritage as motley as the architectural styles of its medieval old town. This year Slovakia's second largest city steps out of the shadows as Europe's eastern Capital of Culture while also feting 20 years of Slovak independence. Along the Old Craftsman Row (Hrnčiarska), visitors drop in on the ancient ateliers of modern-day artists, blacksmiths, and potters. Locals fill the cobblestoned main square and beyond, spilling out of wine bars like Villa Cassa, which pours 800 varietals, with some from the nearby

Tokaj region. Košice's location makes it convenient to explore several national parks, the ski resorts and glacial lakes of High Tatras, and UNESCO World Heritage sites, including a treasury of centuries-old wooden churches. An army barracks turned cultural center and the White Night festival on October 5 shed light on a thriving arts scene. "Košice has always been a city of culture," says guide Milan Kolcun. "Only now we are no longer anonymous." —**KIMBERLEY LOVATO**

■ **TIP:** USE EURAIL'S NEW TRIP PLANNER TO FIND TRAIN ROUTES TO KOŠICE (5-6 HOURS FROM BRATISLAVA, 3.5 HOURS FROM BUDAPEST).

ATLAS

Košice, Slovakia



Slovak emigrants include Andy Warhol's parents and tennis star Martina Hingis.

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A night tour of the Neon Museum Boneyard in downtown Vegas

Downtown Vegas Recaptures Its Youthful Glow

TWO MILES (AND WORLDS AWAY) from the Strip, on Fremont Street, a 40-foot cowboy known as Vegas Vic winks at the hustle and tease that turned downtown Vegas into an epicenter of escapism. Once a haven of quick divorces and legalized gambling, “Glitter Gulch” fizzled in the 1950s as opulent casinos moved to the Strip. Fremont became a backwater of \$1 blackjack tables and empty lots. Finally, luck has again struck downtown. Cast-off casino signs light up the Neon Museum Boneyard, Bugsy Siegel lives on at the Mob Museum, and the Smith Center for the

Performing Arts dazzles with Broadway and cabaret. The comeback is an apt story of high stakes and deep pockets—namely those of Zappos.com CEO Tony Hsieh. His \$350 million Downtown Project plan bets on the intersection of urban density and creative people, and as he moves his headquarters here this fall, old Vegas is fast becoming Vegas for locals. “Downtown had a soul before Zappos,” says Hsieh. “People just needed to know where to look.” —**ELAINE GLUSAC**

■ **TIP: STAY AMID THE ACTION AT THE DOWNTOWN GRAND CASINO & HOTEL, OPENING IN OCTOBER IN THE FORMER LADY LUCK CASINO.**

ATLAS

Las Vegas, Nevada



A-bomb watch parties and the “atomic cocktail” boomed in Vegas in the 1950s.

INTERNATIONAL MAPPING



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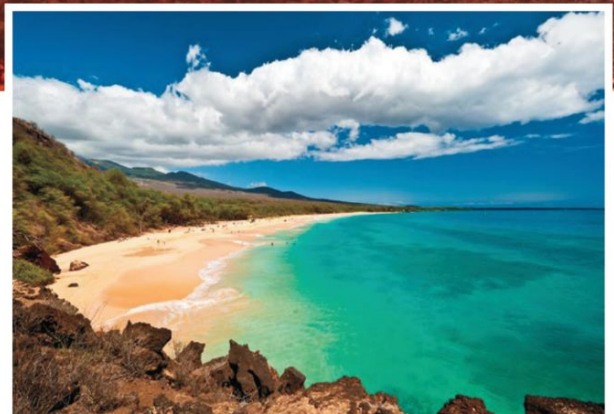
50

Incredible HAWAII Attractions

Sometimes lying around in your hotel just won't do. From a night out in Honolulu's Chinatown to a hiking tour of Moloka'i's native rain forest, we've gathered fifty attractions in the fiftieth state that leave no time for sleep.

Maui

1. Visit Haleakalā National Park and watch the sunrise from the 10,023-foot summit of its volcano. [nps.gov/hale](https://www.nps.gov/hale)
2. Walk in the footsteps of Hawaiian history at 'Īao Valley State Monument. [hawaii.stateparks.org](https://www.hawaii.stateparks.org)
3. Follow the self-guided Lahaina Historic Trail to see 62 cultural and historic sites.
4. Stand in awe of the 12-foot-tall copper and bronze Buddha statue at Lahaina Jodo Mission. [lahainajodomission.org](https://www.lahainajodomission.org)
5. Reserve a spot at the Old Lahaina Lū'au to witness hula, eat a Hawaiian-style feast, and watch the sun set over the ocean. [oldlahainaluau.com](https://www.oldlahainaluau.com)
6. Check out the golden sands of Mākena, or "Big Beach," on the south shore.
7. Drive the winding, 52-mile "Road to Hāna" and stop at a fruit stand along the way.
8. Watch windsurfers and kiteboarders battle huge waves at Ho'okipa Beach Park.
9. Go shopping at boutiques, followed by lunch at the Fish Market, in the quaint town of Pāi'a.
10. Visit Kahanu Garden to see Pi'ilanihale, likely Hawai'i's largest heiau (place of worship). [ntbg.org](https://www.ntbg.org)



Volcanic landscape at sunrise in Haleakalā National Park (top); Mākena Beach (above)



[Maria Atkins
[Age 52, Accountant]]

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Friday night Na Kūpuna Kanikapila

Photo: Dana Edmunds, Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Moloka'i

11. Take a guided tour of Hālawā Valley; the two-mile hike leads to Mo'oula Falls. hotelmolokai.com
12. Embark on a guided mule ride to Kalaupapa National Historical Park. muleride.com
13. Connect with Moloka'i Outdoors to kayak the longest continuous fringing reef of the U.S. molokai-outdoors.com
14. Go to Hotel Moloka'i for Na Kūpuna Kanikapila—every Friday local elders sing traditional songs, strum 'ukulele, and hula dance. hotelmolokai.com

15. Don't miss the late-night hot bread run at Kanemitsu's Bakery and Coffee Shop. 808-553-5855
16. Join a hike through Kamakou Preserve, a 2,774-acre rain forest, led by The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i. nature.org
17. Lay a towel at Pāpōhaku Beach—at 300 feet wide and over two miles long, one of Hawai'i's largest white sand beaches.

Lāna'i

18. Take a bumpy drive to Keahiakawelo, or "Garden of the Gods," where eroded spires and large boulders are mysteriously situated against a windswept landscape.
19. Hop on a catamaran with Trilogy Excursions and go snorkeling at a secluded spot. sailtrilogy.com
20. Dive offshore reefs, including First Cathedral, which excites with an underwater lava tube. sailtrilogy.com
21. Head to Hulopo'e Bay on the south shore; its crescent-shaped beach is perfect for sun worshippers.



Lāna'i's striking southern coast

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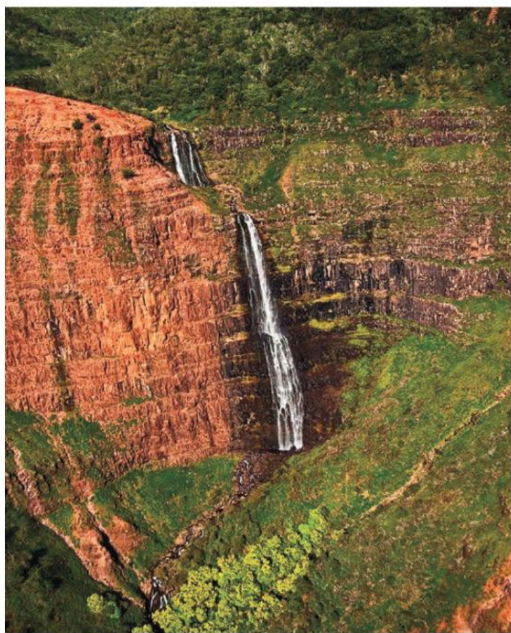
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22. Visit the Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center and see more than 30,000 artifacts.
lanaichc.org
23. Eat at the Blue Ginger Café, in Lānaʻi City, the best place to have breakfast and mingle with island residents.
bluegingercafelanai.com
24. Relax under tall pine trees at Dole Park.
25. Drive the 12.8-mile Munro Trail to Mount Lānaʻihale, at 3,370 feet Lānaʻi's highest peak.



Stunning Waipo'o Falls, in Waimea Canyon

Kaua'i

26. Go on a mysterious (and in some parts, nearly pitch-black!) two-mile tube ride through rainwater irrigation tunnels with Kaua'i Backcountry Adventures.
kauaibackcountry.com
27. Consider the challenging 11-mile Kalalau Trail, which leads to stunning Kalalau Beach. *hawaii.stateparks.org*
28. View wildlife at Kaua'i's Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, a 203-acre safe haven for countless seabirds.
fws.gov/kilaueapoint
29. Pull over at an overlook to see Waimea Canyon, the spectacular 14-mile-long, mile-wide, 3,600-foot-deep natural wonder.
hawaii.stateparks.org



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30. Hike Waimea Canyon's Kukui Trail, which leads to the canyon floor. hawaiiistateparks.org
31. Step back in time at the Kaua'i Museum, where you'll learn about the island's unique history. kauaimuseum.org
32. Learn how to hang ten at gorgeous Hanalei Bay with Hawaiian Surfing Adventures. hawaiiansurfingadventures.com
33. Enjoy a 30-acre botanical garden, a feast including poi (pounded taro root), and native dances—from the Hawaiian hula to the Samoan fire knife dance—at Smith Family Garden Lū'au. smithskauai.com
34. Visit Hanapepe town on a Friday (from 6 to 9 p.m.) to meet local artists and stroll through their art galleries.



John John Florence, winner of the 2011 Vans Triple Crown
Photo: ASP Cestari, Vans Triple Crown of Surfing

O'ahu

35. Lend a hand (on the second or fourth Saturday of most months) with Paepae o He'eia—a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring a nearly 800-year-old fishpond. paepaeoheeia.org
36. Savor fresh, island-grown ingredients outdoors at Sweet Home Waimānalo restaurant. sweethomewaimanalo.com
37. Check out the exhibit "Georgia O'Keeffe and Ansel Adams: The Hawai'i Pictures," on view through mid-January 2014 at the Honolulu Museum of Art. honolulumuseum.org
38. Catch a show at the historic Hawai'i Theatre. hawaiiitheatre.com
39. Don't go to Honolulu's Chinatown without eating ramen—with a modern twist—at local favorite, Lucky Belly. luckybelly.com
40. Hike along the sun-soaked Ka'ena Point Trail on O'ahu's Leeward Coast and you may spot nesting seabirds. hawaiiistateparks.org
41. Watch the world's best surfers compete at the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing, held November 12 through December 20—but only when the waves are up. vanstriplecrownofsurfing.com
42. Stop for something sweet at Ted's Bakery—an institution on the North Shore. tedsbakery.com

Hawai'i Island

43. Soar over lush ravines and a spectacular waterfall on the 'Akaka Falls Tour with Skyline Eco Adventures. zipline.com
44. Stargaze with the help of giant telescopes—and 9,300 feet in elevation—at the Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station. ifa.hawaii.edu/info/vis
45. Hop aboard the *Hula Kai* for a nighttime dive, and try to not flinch as giant mantas swoop within inches of you. fair-wind.com
46. Experience the lava landscapes, native rain forests, and petroglyph fields at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. nps.gov/havo
47. Discover Punalu'u Beach, on the southeastern coast, and take in its stunning black sand and basking green sea turtles.
48. Saddle up for a horseback ride through the 8,500-acre Kahuā Ranch, in Waimea—one of the oldest working ranches in Hawai'i. kahuaranch.com
49. Wander around Hāwī, a quaint town lined with plantation-style buildings of art studios, boutiques, and restaurants.
50. Go to the Bamboo Restaurant and Gallery to taste their famous *liliko'i* (passion fruit) margarita. bamboorestaurant.info



Punalu'u Black Sand Beach

Photo: Tor Johnson, Hawai'i Tourism Authority

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**"If they had a list of the Ten Least Boring Places,
Miami would have to be at the top."**

—DAVE BARRY

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Miami's
South Pointe
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Coconut water refreshes in Little Havana.

MY CITY

The Chill Side of Miami

A LOCAL'S TAKE ON SOUTH FLORIDA'S HOT SPOT By HANNAH SAMPSON

MIAMI HAS A CERTAIN rep: the party vibe, the heat, the pricey booze. But the Miami I like to show off—the one that makes this tourist mecca a hometown—charms with quiet parks, cultural gems, Latin flair, and, of course, gorgeous water views.

LIFE'S A BEACH My favorite jogging route takes me along the water in South Pointe Park. The 17.5-acre oasis leads to my preferred stretch of sand, where surfers gather and beachgoers wave at cruise ships lumbering out of Miami's port. Better known to viewers of *Miami Vice* is Ocean Drive, a collection of neon-trimmed art deco hotels, restaurants, and bars that is largely the playground of tourists. One exception: the Official Art Deco Gift Shop, run by the Miami Design Preservation League, which lures this local with

ATLAS

Miami



In the 1940s, a Miami pharmacist invented the first sunscreen lotion widely available in the U.S.

Gatsby-esque posters, Bakelite jewelry, and vintage clothing.

PARK PLEASURES Though normally crowd-averse, I join the masses to squeeze into SoundScape park for simulcasts of classical music concerts projected on the outside wall of the New World Symphony's building. The "Wallcast" concerts are free, and the communal experience is glorious. For a picnic in the park, I order the veggie sub with French vinaigrette at the open-air La Sandwicherie shop.

TASTE OF CUBA Back in Miami proper, I head to Little Havana for Cuban-tinged culture. Just down historic Calle Ocho from Domino Park, Miami Dade College's Tower Theater screens indie and

■ READ "I HEART MY CITY" POSTS ON INTEL
LIGENTTRAVEL.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM.

foreign films, and Azucar Ice Cream Company features typically Miami flavors such as café con leche and coconut flan.

HEAT ADVISORY "Living here is therapeutic because it's so slow—the whole 'Miami time' thing," my friend and fellow Miami native Adam Gersten likes to say. "It's a tropical environment. You don't want to move that fast." When out-of-town guests come to visit, he exposes them to our "Floridian dockside dining" at waterfront restaurants, like Monty's Raw Bar on Biscayne Bay in the Coconut Grove neighborhood. Adam is a real-deal bar expert, having opened his old-school Gramps, a hangout for creatives and local journalists, in the city's Wynwood area last year.

MY MELLOW Northeast of artsy Wynwood, Lagniappe cultivates a cozy setting for those of us who can't be bothered to get past velvet ropes. The grill is fired up out back; inside, the bar serves wine and beer. Musicians perform in the intimate living room or sprawling backyard, where mismatched, thrift-store patio chairs and tables create an overall sense of chill. The word "lagniappe" means "an unexpected gift," and Miami is full of them—if you know where to look.

HANNAH SAMPSON is a writer for the *Miami Herald*.



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Consider driving: San Francisco's Bay Bridge.

PROBLEM SOLVED

Hope for the Holidays

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Q. I made an airline reservation online, but 10 minutes later I changed my mind. Can I take it back?

You're in luck. Since 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation has had a little-known rule that requires all airlines selling tickets in the U.S. to hold your reservation without your having to make a payment, or to allow you to cancel your booking without penalty, for 24 hours after you make that booking. Dennis Foster of Cleveland invoked the rule after typing the wrong name on a Delta ticket to St. Thomas. "At first, they didn't want to," he says. "It took several calls to get it fixed." The exception: If you're a week or less prior to departure, the reservation sticks. Practically speaking, that means you can fix almost any mistake—including a misspelled name or if you just have buyer's remorse—by canceling and then rebooking. However, there's no guarantee that your ticket will cost the same as before. The

NEED HELP?

Editor at Large Christopher Elliott is our resident consumer advocate and ombudsman and has helped countless readers fix their trips over the past 15 years.

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sooner you fix the mistake, the better for your wallet.

Q. Can I avoid expensive holiday airfares? Sure, you could do what Dom Beveridge did when he needed to travel with his family from Pittsburgh to Detroit recently. "Prices were ridiculous," he says. "So we drove." True, a five-hour drive isn't as convenient as a half-hour flight, but with airfares still stubbornly high, the damage adds up quickly, especially if you're traveling with family. An online calculator such as TravelMath.com can help you run the numbers. If you still prefer to fly, remember that airlines are basically playing a game of chicken with you before the holidays. As you get closer to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day, they're raising their fares, hoping you'll pay a higher price. But if there aren't enough takers, they slash their rates. To play this game, it helps to track your desired fare using a free service such as Yapta.



STRANGE PLANET

MUGGLE MATCHES Visit the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, in Orlando, Florida, and you can buy your own Quidditch broomstick, but if you feel like actually playing the game, you can probably find a league of your own. From Boston to Baton Rouge, college students who grew up reading the Potter series now play it on hundreds of college campuses. Successful wizards battle it out all the way to the World Cup.

SEEKING BIGFOOT Itching to track down a hairy hominin? Meet up with the Washington Sasquatch Research Team, a band of Sherlocks on the trail of Bigfoot, the mysterious ape-like creature rumored to live in the Pacific Northwest. Lugging thermal cameras, the volunteer sleuths seek irrefutable proof that Bigfoot walks among us.

DEAD MAN WALKING Fans of the TV series *The Walking Dead*, a tale of life after the zombie apocalypse, are staggering all over Georgia devouring the locations where the show is filmed, with the help of websites such as Walking Dead Locations. Highlights of this DIY tour include 817 Cherokee Avenue in Atlanta (Rick's house) and the exurban town of Senoia (the show's human survivor outpost). —Andrew Nelson



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CHECKING IN

Unplugged in South America



A fire blazes at dusk in front of the main house at Fazenda Catuçaba, an organic coffee farm in eastern Brazil, where guests enjoy horseback riding, birding, and river rafting.

GALÁPAGOS SAFARI CAMP With nine furnished tents in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, this lodge inverts the usual model of tourism here. Instead of sleeping on a boat and making forays onto land, guests stay at a private farm where they can gaze at the distant Pacific and watch tortoises amble past their canvas rooms, and make day-trips to the water (about 30 minutes away).

■ SANTA CRUZ, ECUADOR; FROM \$500, INCLUDING MEALS AND EXCURSIONS



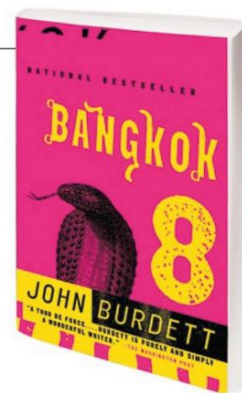
FAZENDA CATUÇABA At this country retreat in the rolling hills east of São Paulo, the only sounds are birdsong and the laughter of local staff. Guests come for the charms of an 1850s farmhouse and the peace of a technology-free setting. Between homemade meals—everything from *cachaça* liquor to coffee cake is made on-site—visitors can explore the adjacent Serro do Mar state park.

■ CATUÇABA, BRAZIL (3 HOURS FROM SÃO PAULO); FROM \$420, INCLUDING MEALS AND ACTIVITIES



CANDELARIA DEL MONTE The Argentine pampas is the stuff of dreams—a place where meals take hours and siestas are mandatory. Nowhere is this more evident than at Candelaria del Monte, a colonial-style estancia where owner (and de facto gaucho) Sebastián Goñi encourages guests to go horseback riding, herd cattle, harvest from the organic garden, or watch a polo match.

■ SAN MIGUEL DEL MONTE, ARGENTINA; FROM \$220 PER PERSON, INCLUDING MEALS AND ACTIVITIES



BOOKSHELF

Reading in the dark

In many cultures, doors to the underworld creak open in October, so it'd be criminal not to sink your teeth right now into these transporting thrillers.

Jason Bourne meets Luxembourg tourism board in Chris Pavone's **THE EXPATS** (2012), a corkscrewing tale of European espionage set among the cobbled streets and convivial cafés of this medieval yet modern duchy.

In John Burdett's page-turner **BANGKOK 8** (2003), detective Sonchai Jitpleecheep's nonviolent Buddhist leanings rather get in the way of his hunt for a cop killer through the steamy labyrinths of the Thai capital's underworld.

John Berendt's best-selling **MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL** (1994) unravels a real-life society murder, but the true main character is Savannah, Georgia, in all its southern gothic glory. Berendt will have you wishing you lived in a white-columned mansion shaded by Spanish moss-draped trees, with a voodoo priestess for a neighbor.

If you like your thrills on the milder side, meet Martin Walker's Bruno, chief of police (2008), who tries to solve an apparently race-inspired murder that disrupts his idyllic small town in the Dordogne. The popular protagonist stars in four other novels, most recently **THE DEVIL'S CAVE** (2012). —Don George

■ FOR MORE BOOK REVIEWS BY DON GEORGE, GO TO INTELLIGENTTRAVEL.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM.

FAZENDA CATUÇABA (HOUSE, BEDROOM), GALÁPAGOS SAFARI CAMP (TENT), AJ MESSIER/CANDELARIA DEL MONTE (HORSES)



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WORLD CALENDAR

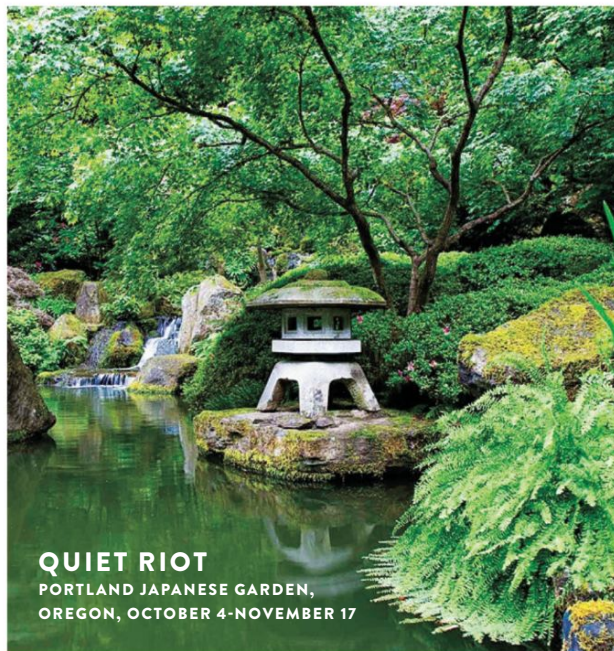
Hot Dates & Happy Birthdays



LUCK OF THE IRISH FOODIE

KINSALE GOURMET FESTIVAL, IRELAND, OCTOBER 11-13

Forks dig into West Cork's surf-and-turf bounty at Ireland's oldest food festival, now in its 37th year. The highlight is a tasting tour of seaside Kinsale led by Alice in Wonderland and the Mad Hatter because—why not? Quirky hats are mandatory during stops that include popular seafood restaurants Crackpots and Fishy Fishy Café. Sample Irish brown bread freshly baked or crawfish (above) caught in Kinsale Harbor.



QUIET RIOT

PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN, OREGON, OCTOBER 4-NOVEMBER 17

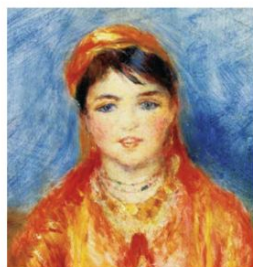
With its graceful bridges, koi-filled ponds, and mossy landscapes, the 5.5-acre Portland Japanese Garden is looking good at 50. The beauty spot's yearlong anniversary celebration culminates with an exhibit of renowned sculptor Sueharu Fukami's organic forms.



SCIENCE FAIR

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, THROUGHOUT 2013

Thomas the *T. rex* has moved into new Dinosaur Hall digs at Los Angeles's beloved Natural History Museum. Other fresh features marking the museum's centennial this year: an indoor Nature Lab; the outdoor, butterfly-friendly Nature Gardens; and an entryway featuring a suspended 63-foot fin whale specimen.



THE EXHIBIT THAT CAUSED AN UPROAR

"THE ARMORY SHOW AT 100," NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OCTOBER 11, 2013-FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Quacks! Anarchists! Fools! Even Teddy Roosevelt chimed in, "That's not art!" In retrospect, the 1913 Armory Show launched the notion of "modern" in America. The New-York Historical Society re-creates the once ridiculed event with some 100 works—by American and European artists, conservative and avant-garde—including Renoir's "Algerian Girl" (left).

ANNIVERSARY IN AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA'S CENTENARY, AUSTRALIA, THROUGHOUT 2013

Oz's capital city toots its birthday horn with events such as an exhibit of contemporary Aboriginal art (left) at the National Museum of Australia until November 3. At a gathering called the Museum of the Long Weekend, October 18-20, you can swap stories with the owners of vintage trailers displaying old family photos and other vacation memorabilia.



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EXPLORER

Justice of the Peace

A FRESH FACE DELIVERS THE HOLY LAND By KATIE KNOROVSKY

GROWING UP Palestinian in Jerusalem, Aziz Abu Sarah carried onions to repel the effects of tear gas and—after his brother died from prison beatings—stones to throw at Israeli soldiers. When he was 18, taking a Hebrew class with Jewish students reset his path toward peace. A Muslim, he works with an Orthodox rabbi as well as a former banker to give dual-narrative tours of the Holy Land with their company, Mejdi, and with National Geographic Expeditions. His approach has earned praise from diverse travelers—whether church groups or executives—and even UN

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Abu Sarah shares some of his own story:

LESSONS Sometimes the bad experiences make you who you are. Growing up angry, only wanting to push my story, made me realize how harmful not wanting to learn about anybody else is.

I learned English by talking to tourists, starting when I was 13 or 14, in the streets of Jerusalem.

PERSPECTIVES On our tours, we tell a story that few do about why, according to Jewish tradition,

Cultural educator and National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah in Washington, D.C.

God chose the mountain behind the Western Wall to be the Temple Mount. Then we explain that it's also a Muslim story. At the mosque, we make connections between the Prophet Muhammad and the Bible. With two guides, we're able to do nuances.

To get to the Jewish parts of archaeology, you have to dismantle other layers—Ottoman, Byzantine. So, is archaeology political?

BOUNDARIES A rabbi said to me, "We've been visiting Israel for years. This time, I want to stay with Palestinians in their homes. How about a refugee camp?" I thought he was nuts. But we set up in the Bethlehem area inside a camp. Two days later, people were hugging, kissing, even weeping as they parted. This was the first time I saw Palestinians crying that a Jewish person was leaving their home.

We still want people to have fun. We'll take them clubbing in Ramallah, a Palestinian city, and then in Tel Aviv, which is Israeli. Residents of Ramallah and from Tel Aviv cannot cross borders like that. Visitors, in some ways, become the connecting point.

APPROACHES To see a town, I'll hire a student, a professor, an engineer—not somebody who memorized what to tell you.

There's a great poem by an Israeli, Yehuda Amichai, called "Tourists." To paraphrase, he says he was standing next to a gate when a tour guide said, "See that man? Above him is a Roman arch that is 2,000 years old." Amichai explains that his wish is for a guide to say, "See that Roman arch? The man standing under it is what matters."

Travel is the best intercultural exchange that can happen. I'm not saying people need to agree, but to open their minds.

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DIGITAL NOMAD

BACK HOME ON THE RANGE

By ANDREW EVANS

The **TEXAS PANHANDLE** unfolds like some biblical landscape, a flat expanse of red-brown soil that never ends. My birth certificate calls this my native land, but I find the featureless void here in the state's northern reaches overwhelming. It's the desolate realm from the Book of Ezekiel, America's answer to the Sahara and Siberia, immeasurable beyond the lengths of wire threaded from one utility pole to the next.

I've driven a hundred miles without a bend in the road. Yellow signs offer warnings—"Watch for High Winds"—but I only see bouncing tumbleweeds. Passing the many churches of Lubbock, I devise a whole sermon on tumbleweeds, a metaphor for aimless living—or aimless travel. Like a tumbleweed, I'm uprooted, rolling for hundreds of miles without a tree or fence to stop me.

Two hundred miles have clicked by without a breath of fresh air. I slow to a stop and step out. I smell damp prairie. I also detect methane from the cattle roaming these plains—and the faint scent of oil from deep underground, pumped to the surface by the drills on the horizon. I have not stopped to smell the roses—no. I've stopped to smell the oil and the cows. *This is Texas.*

■ FOR MORE: DIGITALNOMAD.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM AND [@WHERESANDREW](https://twitter.com/WHERESANDREW)

ADVENTURE 101

Hiking an American Treasure

STEP-BY-STEP ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL By MARY ANNE POTTS

"THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL is both intimate and majestic," says hiker and author Jennifer Pharr Davis, who has through-hiked the megatrail three times and holds the speed record (46 days, 11 hours, and 20 minutes). Completed in 1937 and stretching 2,180 mountainous miles from Georgia to Maine, the Appalachian Trail (AT) provides a classic American adventure, drawing up to three million visitors a year.

GETTING STARTED

From New York City: Head to Pawling, where the AT crosses the train tracks, to hike a few miles to the Dover Oak, a huge, 250-year-old tree.

From Washington, D.C.: Drive on Route 7 to Snickers Gap in Virginia on the Loudoun County border. Hike south to the Bears Den Hostel, a charming mountaintop stone fortress.

From Asheville, N.C.: The AT runs right down Bridge Street in Hot Springs, a charming Blue Ridge mountain town where you can soak in hot water, stay at an inn, and fill up on homemade biscuits at the Smoky Mountain Diner.



TRAIL TESTED

Pharr Davis recommends packing a pocket mirror. "It can reflect the sun for aircraft in case of emergencies, and help you check out a bug bite in a hard-to-view location. Bring duct tape for repairing tears in gear."

LOCAL COLOR

"One of my favorite traditions along the trail is 'trail magic'—doing something nice for fellow hikers." Examples include leaving a cooler filled with sodas or offering essentials such as toilet paper and bug spray. Providers are called "trail angels." "The trail teaches you how to give and receive. It restores your faith in humanity."



Hikers take in the view.

CAMPING OPTIONAL

Hike by day and spend nights in a hostel, hut, or hotel. Recommended: Bascom Lodge on top of Mount Greylock in the Massachusetts Berkshires. "This is a far cry from a tent but still offers direct access to the wilderness."

READY FOR ANYTHING

The weather will change dramatically and unpredictably, so pack accordingly. "I find creative ways to stay warm," says Pharr Davis. "I've used an extra pair of wool socks as mittens and turned a plastic trash bag into a rain-proof vest."



A porcupine on the trail

ATLAS

Appalachian Trail



It's a tradition to eat a half-gallon of ice cream near the AT's midpoint in Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania.

OTHER HIKES

- 1) California's **John Muir Trail** near Yosemite for its scenic views; 2) the **Colorado Trail** between Silverton and Lake City for its alpine loop and majestic peaks; 3) Alabama's **Pinhoti Trail** for AT-like terrain without the crowds

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TRENDING

BATTLE OF THE BILLIONAIRES

By COSTAS CHRIST

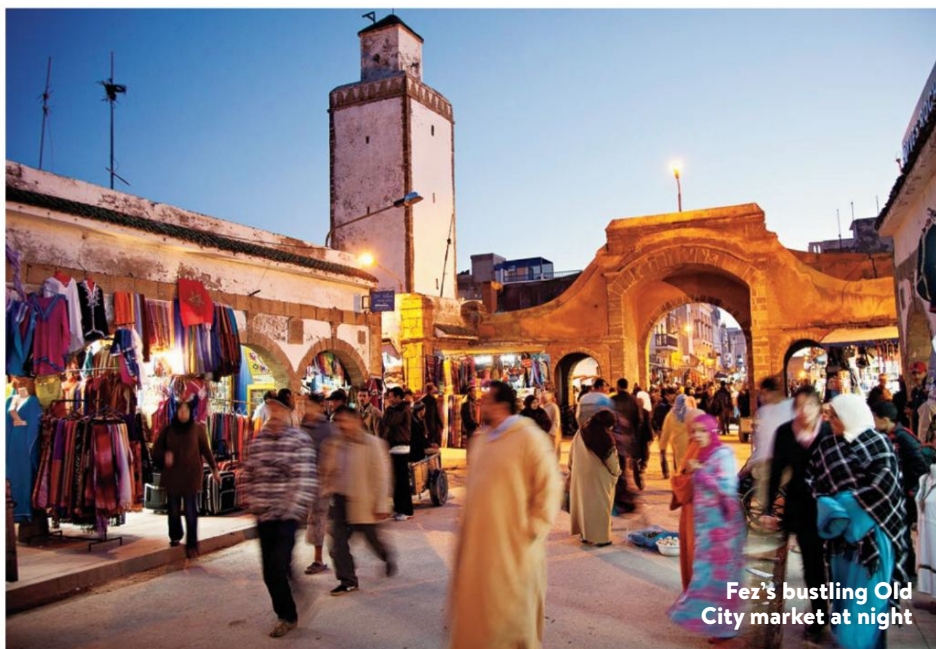
The superrich have long been known—accurately or not—for their competitiveness. Take Ernesto Bertarelli and Larry Ellison. The Swiss biotech billionaire and the American software billionaire—both sailors—fought bitterly in court over the America's Cup yacht race. But luckily, some of the world's 1 percent are also engaged in a far worthier competition—**PROTECTING THE PLANET'S SEAS** and islands.

Bertarelli appears to have the early lead, having helped create two marine reserves. Chagos, in the Indian Ocean, is the biggest in the world; Turneffe Atoll in Belize, while smaller, may be more critical, given that 70 percent of the Caribbean's reefs are threatened.

Not content to sit on the sidelines, British tycoon Richard Branson pledged ongoing support for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which aims to protect 20 percent of the Caribbean's marine and coastal resources. Then there's Ted Waitt, the personal computing entrepreneur, who is helping to expand Cabrera National Park in Spain's Balearic Islands—an important spawning ground for the bluefin tuna.

Competition can be a good thing. Let's see more of it.

■ FOLLOW EDITOR AT LARGE COSTAS CHRIST ON TWITTER @COSTASCHRIST.



Fez's bustling Old City market at night

LOCAL FLAVOR

The Classic Dish of Fez

OH, THE SWEET TASTE OF PIGEON PIE By NICOLE COTRONEO JOLLY

MOROCCANS LIKE their sweets—even when they're supposed to be savory. The sweet-and-meat combination crackles in *pastilla*, pronounced “bastiya,” a fragrant, spicy pie of poultry laced with sugar, ground almonds, and sweet onions and wrapped in golden layers of *warka*, a pastry so thin it's translucent before baking.

When the Moors fled Spain beginning in the 15th century, they likely brought an early pastilla to Morocco. Today, the

delicacy reaches its apex in the imperial city of Fez, where a squab pastilla serves as an early course, sliced and shared, at a sumptuous celebration.

Unless you're lucky enough to attend a local wedding, you'll be hard-pressed to find the pigeon pie. However, with 24 hours' notice, the **Dar Hatim** restaurant will make a pigeon pastilla big enough to share. Otherwise, a personal-size chicken pastilla is always on the menu, made by the owner's wife and his mother.

You can better imagine pastilla being offered by a pasha at **La Medina**, a stately old *riad* with colorful tilework. Here, the pastilla follows a parade of cooked Moroccan salads such as spicy eggplant with tomatoes.

When you've had your fill of fowl, try the seafood pastilla (made with swordfish, shrimp, and calamari) at the **Fez Café**, a rare garden restaurant in this crowded, ancient city.

ATLAS

Fez, Morocco



Moroccans eat their main meal at midday, with the exception of the holy month of Ramadan, when they fast between dawn and dark.



Pastilla

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Fun science: the parabolic mirror at the Exploratorium

FAMILY TIME

San Francisco Treats

WHAT'S GREAT FOR KIDS IN THE CITY BY THE BAY By KIMBERLEY LOVATO

PLACE	THE SCOOP	DON'T MISS
The Exploratorium	A Silicon Valley-worthy relaunch of the interactive science museum founded by Frank Oppenheimer (Manhattan Project fame) in 1969. The new digs are on Pier 15, near the Ferry Building.	Drink from the toilet-shaped water fountain. Sculpt with electrified Play-Doh at the Tinkering Studio. Sample a California seawater cocktail at the bar (grown-ups only).
Mission District	This Latino/boho/hipster neighborhood feels like an adult enclave, but there's plenty here for the pint-sized.	Peek into the hushed sanctum of the Mission Dolores. Walk through mural-laden Balmy Alley. Order a cone of ricanelas ice cream at Bi-Rite.
Golden Gate Park	At more than 1,000 acres it's 20 percent larger than Central Park, with lakes, fields, windmills (right), gardens, and two museums (including the California Academy of Sciences). You'll need a plan.	Ride the century-old carousel at the Children's Quarter (only the beasts in the middle row go up and down). Count bison (there's been a herd since the 1890s). Get free swing dance lessons on Sundays.

ATLAS

San Francisco



Though curvy Lombard Street gets all the attention, Vermont Street in Potrero Hill is actually more crooked.



ESCAPE TO ALCATRAZ

Catch the scenic ferry ride from Pier 33 to Alcatraz, or “the Rock.” The fearsome **FEDERAL PENITENTIARY** on the island housed America’s most notorious criminals from 1934 to 1963, including Al Capone and “Machine Gun” Kelly. Tickets often sell out in the summer, so book far in advance. The two-and-a-half-hour tour (\$30, including audio guide) includes the five-by-nine-foot cells in C-Block, which inmates sarcastically dubbed “Park Avenue.” Some parents seize the opportunity to give their kids a *Scared Straight!* lesson by putting them in a solitary confinement cell and shutting the door. Those who have read the book *Al Capone Does My Shirts* will know that children—the sons and daughters of prison guards—resided on Alcatraz. Get a sense of their lives by strolling the grounds, where rocky cliffs are now claimed by thousands of roosting gulls and egrets. Got teens? Opt for the more ghoulish night tour (\$37), which includes stops at the prison’s hospital and morgue.

FIRST PERSON

“As a teenager in San Francisco I loved to stand on the running board of a cable car and hang on tight as it went downhill.”

—LINDA BURBANK, SAN FRANCISCO PARENT

AMY SNYDER/EXPLORATORIUM (PEOPLE), MICHAEL SUGRUE/GETTY IMAGES (BUILDING), SUSAN SEUBERT (WINDMILL)

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GORDON WILTSIE

National
Geographic
Photographer
on America's
National Parks

MY LOVE FOR NATIONAL PARKS

My mother jokingly ascribed my lifelong passions for wilderness, adventure, and photography to hearing the clanking sounds made by their mountain-climbing gear while she and my father camped in **YOSEMITE** just before I was born. They loved national parks and throughout my youth we visited numerous ones: **ZION**, **DEATH VALLEY**, **GRAND CANYON**, and many others. Our favorite was **YELLOWSTONE**, where we'd stare transfixed from the car, looking for bears that might be up any tree and constantly surprised by other creatures like elk, moose, and bison. Just as exciting were supernatural geysers, hot springs,

and waterfalls that appeared around almost every bend. The park became a part of me and later it helped inspire my wife and me to move our own family to Montana, from which our children, too, could discover its wonders. Even after traveling to some of the world's most spectacular places as a National Geographic photographer and explorer, I still delight when I take pictures there. Most recently I spotted these "wapiti"—whose then-velveteen antlers might soon lock in mating combat—bedded down like friends in flower-filled **ELK MEADOWS**, a paradise preserved not just to nourish animals, but also the human soul.

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All smiles, a resident of the village of Oingt sports a tricolored rosette. Vineyards (opposite) web the church-dotted Beaujolais landscape.

IN FRANCE'S
BEAUJOLAIS,
AN INTOXICATING
BLEND OF WARMTH
AND WELCOME

Under the Influence

BY BRUCE SCHOENFELD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSAN SEUBERT

“ON A CLEAR DAY,” WINEMAKER JULIEN

Sunier tells me in the kitchen of his farmhouse cottage, “you can see Mont Blanc from our porch.” I’m finding this hard to imagine. We are in Beaujolais, a region of gentle hills and tidy villages tucked between the Loire and Rhône Rivers, hundreds of miles from the austere Alps. Also, it’s February, and the sky is leaden white. The precipitation in the air is palpable. I can barely see my rental car, parked in the mist shrouding Sunier’s driveway.

But let it snow. The house, which doubles as Sunier’s winery, is snug, jazz music emanates from somewhere, and Sunier’s wife, Sylvie, has constructed a midday meal of roast pork and brussels sprouts with mustard and salsify (one of my favorite root vegetables). Over a pear tart, Sunier says that Beaujolais has been overlooked for years but now is beginning to draw tourists and permanent transplants, such as the two of them, from Burgundy, just up the autoroute.

At 37, Julien Sunier is at the forefront of a new generation of Beaujolais producers that has turned the area’s reputation for modest, unmemorable wines—including the insidious Beaujolais nouveau—on its head. His three bottlings, each from grapes grown in a different village, are as refreshing as crisp apples, softly fruity, and with alcohol contents low enough that you can enjoy some at lunch and not be addled in the afternoon.

The appeal of these wines cannot be expressed in ratings points or auction values. It’s in how the wines enhance what I’m eating, how they



Mathieu Lapierre, son of famed vintner Marcel Lapierre, relaxes at the family winery. To the north sits the privately owned Château de La Roche (opposite), built in the 1600s.





A classic French country inn, the Source des Fées also makes its own wines. Girls in Oingt (opposite) celebrate the Fête des Conscripts, an annual town birthday event.



THOUGH PARTS OF FRANCE OFFER AN INSCRUTABLE, EVEN POMPOUS, FACE TO THE WORLD, BEAUJOLAIS THROWS OPEN ITS ARMS.

exist as beverages rather than artistic statements, how they remind me of a summer picnic. No one here, not even the wine-makers, sits around solemnly intoning about the aromas in the glass. In fact, the wine may not be mentioned until halfway through a meal. Then, somewhere between the talk and the laughter, someone will take a sip, glance at the bottle, and say out loud, “Hey, this is pretty good.”

The same easy accessibility is a hallmark of this corner of central France. Though parts of this nation offer an inscrutable, even pompous, face to the outside world, Beaujolais throws open its arms. Its scenery is soft, like a watercolor. Hillsides covered with vines give way to a bend in the road dictated, likely as not, by some property dispute centuries ago. On my way to Sunier’s I passed small goat farms and roadside restaurants with blackboard menus scrawled in chalk. Inevitably, I’d reach a village centered on a centuries-old church.

Sunier and I drive down the hill to one of these, in his town of Avenas. Along the road, once part of the Roman Via Agrippa between Lyon and Boulogne, sits the stone Church of Notre Dame. Bulkier than other churches I’ve seen, it dates to the 12th century and is known for a sculpted altar that guidebooks

call one of the finest in medieval France—though you’d never know that from the small size of the sign directing visitors to the site. Even tourism here is understated.

I stand before the altar and contemplate the seated figures of Christ and the 12 apostles. Then Sunier leads me outside to a bar attached to the local restaurant, Le Relais des Sapins (“Inn of the Fir Trees”). A man grasps Sunier by the shoulders and gives him a hearty embrace.

“He’s the mayor,” Sunier tells me as we sit down. “I’m not from here, as you know. But in Beaujolais, that’s not a problem.”

It’s in public spaces like this, I’ve already learned, where the social life of the region plays out: in restaurants, outdoor markets, town squares, and small shops, from which a traveler can’t exit without hearing a singsong chorus of “Bon voyage!” If a visitor shows up at a bar, it’s not uncommon for locals to walk over and introduce themselves.

“When someone notices you have an empty glass, you will immediately have a full glass,” Sunier says. “Within half an hour, you’ll know everyone.”

THOUGH I’VE BEEN WRITING about wine for two decades, it never occurred to me to visit Beaujolais until now. The wine-tourism boom, which began in the 1990s when American consumers sought out renowned producers and celebrated restaurants in Napa Valley, Bordeaux, Tuscany, and beyond, missed the region entirely. Before World War II, Beaujolais wines were considered some of France’s finest. The French *appellation contrôlée* system, which permits food products to

bear place-names only if the raw materials are actually from there, was created in 1935 in part to stop Burgundian producers from labeling their cheaper Pinot Noir with the names of Beaujolais villages. That's how much cachet Beaujolais had. But by 1945, the local economy had ground to a halt. Adopting high-volume production methods and chemical fertilizers to grow far more fruit—and make far more profit from the same land—proved difficult to resist. The delicate Gamay grape, the region's mainstay, seemed to suffer from such treatment. By the 1990s, Burgundies were selling for up to \$500 a bottle. Beaujolais had devolved into all-but-tasteless plonk.

At about the same time, wine revolutionary Marcel Lapierre was pioneering a movement in Beaujolais away from industrial-scale wines toward wines made by the bottle, using grapes untouched by synthetic chemicals. When Lapierre died in 2010, the baton passed to his son, Mathieu, to Sunier, and others. After slow growth, their movement has gained a following. A steady stream of visitors now comes through for the wine and ends up entranced by the place itself.

Beaujolais has few guided tours or formal tasting rooms. The main concession to organized tourism is the Beaujolais wine route, between Lyon to the south and Mâcon to the north, which links towns—bearing names I knew only from labels on bottles—spaced through the rolling countryside. Marked with an official logo, the route follows a network of roads, including various short-cuts down glorified goat paths with street signs.

Even with a GPS, this labyrinth of a course around villages and past vineyards is baffling to anyone who hasn't grown up in the area. After a couple of days of three-point turns and backtracking, I give up on the signs and head into the hills.

The sun has been up only an hour or two, and the air seems to shimmer with the freshness of the morning. The France Musique station is playing Debussy on my car radio as I sweep through a landscape of tall pines and granite outcroppings that makes the Alps feel not so distant after all. I dip down to Juliéna, a village known for violet-scented wine and a cavernous church that probably could hold all 850 villagers. I walk Rue Alphonse Burdot, stopping in a patisserie to eye the pastries. Then I spot a bar across from the post office.

I'd been told that Beaujolais natives start drinking in the morning. Not brandy, as physical laborers traditionally did throughout Europe, but tiny glasses of Beaujolais, *rouge* or *blanc*. When I arrive, three men are sitting at the counter doing just that. It's 10:30 a.m., but they greet me with such earnest good cheer (alcohol-induced, maybe, but compelling nonetheless) that I join them. Soon we're talking, which astonishes me because I don't speak enough French to carry a conversation beyond perfunctory pleasantries. Surfing a wave of hospitality, I'm forming sentences and conveying ideas. Yes, it's my first time in Beaujolais. Sure, it would be better to be here in the summer, but perhaps not, as I'm getting a sense of the authentic Beaujolais. To this they nod in agreement. "*Sans maquillage*," one of them says. Beaujolais without makeup.

My wine, a simple white, is from Pruzilly, two miles away. It is grown, made, sold, and consumed within a ten-minute

drive. It doesn't just taste good going down. It feels virtuous.

Soon after, I find myself entering the village of Chiroubles, where the buildings are blocky but the wines are the region's softest and most fragrant. I slow to navigate an unexpected swell of pedestrian traffic. When I spot garlands of the numeral 3 strung across the road, I understand. I've stumbled upon a Fête des Conscrits, a tradition unique to Beaujolais in which villagers born in a year that ends with the number of the current year—3, for 2013, for example—throw a weekend-long party for the village. To pay for it, organizers spend weeks peddling cakes door-to-door. Events are scheduled so that no nearby towns hold them on the same weekend.

I park by the town square and follow the crowd. Every second or third person I see has a colored ribbon pinned to a jacket or tied around a lock of hair. Each color designates a different decade—green for those born in 1993, yellow for 1983, and so on.

I'D BEEN TOLD THAT BEAUJOLAIS NATIVES START DRINKING IN THE MORNING, TINY GLASSES OF ROUGE OR BLANC. THREE MEN SITTING AT THE COUNTER ARE DOING JUST THAT.

Up front, a group of 15 blue-ribboned sexagenarians (1953) poses for a photo. "They've done it every ten years since they were boys," someone says with pride. They're far from the only ones, I'm sure. What better way to mark the march of the years than with a photo each decade at the town hall?

A drum sounds, then another. A woman throws her arm around her mother, who wears the red ribbon of her 50th year. A knot of green-ribboned 20-year-olds attempts to sing a song together but dissolves into laughter. I recognize a woman who works at a hotel I stayed in earlier in the week. She introduces me to her husband, her daughter, and her daughter's friends. Before long, I have an invitation for lunch. But first, would I like some wine? "From the town," the woman says. "Only grapes from the town."

As festivals go, this one is decidedly informal. There are no rides or food booths, no cardboard tickets to spend, no speeches, no entertainment. There is nothing to accomplish here. Maybe that is why everyone, from toddlers to the elderly, is able to mingle comfortably together. There is nothing but time: time to chat, time to contemplate, time to chase a balloon to the far side of the square, which is what one little girl in a blue dress does until a lone snowflake flutters onto her nose. She stops and lets the balloon skitter away in the breeze. She cocks her head and stares intently upward, as if the answers to the mysteries of the universe are floating down from the sky.

ALL WEEK I'VE BEEN HOPING to catch up with Mathieu Lapierre; I wouldn't be in Beaujolais if not for the upheaval his father set in motion. I also want to taste his wines, especially the 2009 Morgon, which is the last one Marcel made before he died, from one of the best Beaujolais vintages in years. Over a quick drink in his local bar in Villié-Morgon, Mathieu and I agree to



Once a chapel, the painted Old Church Cellar (left) in Juliéas today touts earthier spirits—including the ruby-colored local vintage. Cold cuts, cheeses, and other treats (above) fill a plate at the Auberge du Paradis. Beaujolais back roads (below) weave past vineyards and farms.





Patient partner, a dog (left) sits as its owner dines en plein air in Villié-Morgon. Organic bread (above) is the fare at Le Pain d'Auré. Ribboned Fête des Conscrits celebrants (opposite) stroll in Oingt.

meet at his winery on Monday morning, my last in the area.

I arrive at Domaine M. Lapierre to find it shuttered tight. Moments later, a well-traveled car that seems to have been light blue once (unless it was always pale gray) puttens through the gate. A young woman, curls peeking from under a red wool beret, jumps out and introduces herself as Camille, Mathieu's sister. "Mathieu wanted me to take you somewhere," she says.

Raised in Villié-Morgon, Camille has run a shop in Brazil, waited tables in Quebec, and worked as a sommelier in Biarritz. Soon she'll be heading to the republic of Georgia to make wine, but she expects to eventually return to Beaujolais and run the family winery with her brother.

"This is where I belong," she says. She talks while she drives, weaving through a series of hairpin turns and taking short-cuts through alleys in a way that leaves little doubt she is local.

We pull up at a one-story building along a side street. Inside I see what looks like an antique oven and a table with a young man behind it selling four kinds of organic bread. Aurélien Grillet is Camille's high school classmate. After graduating, he yearned to create something of genuine value for his town. One of his brothers made wine, another grew vegetables. "So I decided on bread," he reasoned, and opened Le Pain d'Auré.

"I wish all bread tasted like this," Camille says. I take a bite. I hadn't been sure why Mathieu wanted me to visit a bakery; now I know. By the time we're back at the car, I've eaten half the loaf.

Camille and I meet Mathieu and Mme. Lapierre—Marcel's widow and their mother—for lunch at Le Pré du Plat, in Cercié. I've realized that the best meals in the region, even those at the

few Michelin-starred restaurants, are simple and shirtsleeve-informal: roasted chicken, morels nestled close, good bread on the table. The meal today ranks among the best I've had. The restaurant is clean, bright, and modern, yet serves earthy, unadorned food. Between bites, Mathieu reveals that he plans to open a similar restaurant of his own in the coming months, in part so he can get the kind of food he likes all week long.

"The places I want to go to always seem closed," he says.

Then he brings me back to the winery. The sun has come out now, and we stand in a courtyard tasting his wines. "This is where I receive my visitors," he says. "It's far better than standing in a cellar."

He opens a bottle of the 2009 Morgon and explains that he loves how different it is from the vintages that preceded and followed it. Consistency, the basis for most successful business models, is the opposite of what he wants to accomplish.

"The loaf that a baker bakes on Monday is different from the one he bakes on Tuesday," he says. "If he's a real baker."

The sun is lighting up the sky from behind us, casting an ethereal brightness onto the courtyard. The 2009 Morgon is exceptional, the best Beaujolais I've had. I start to tell Mathieu what I think, but he holds up a hand. He doesn't want me to analyze it; he doesn't even want me to consider it. He just wants me to drink it.

Colorado-based **BRUCE SCHOENFELD** wrote about Kentucky in the February/March 2013 issue. Contributing photographer **SUSAN SEUBERT** divides her time between Oregon and Hawaii.



THE INSIDER

Beaujolais, France

"DON'T EXPECT hospitality directors or gift shops at the wineries you visit in Beaujolais," says writer Bruce Schoenfeld. Advance appointments by phone or e-mail are necessary, since nobody is waiting around to receive visitors.

WHERE TO SIP

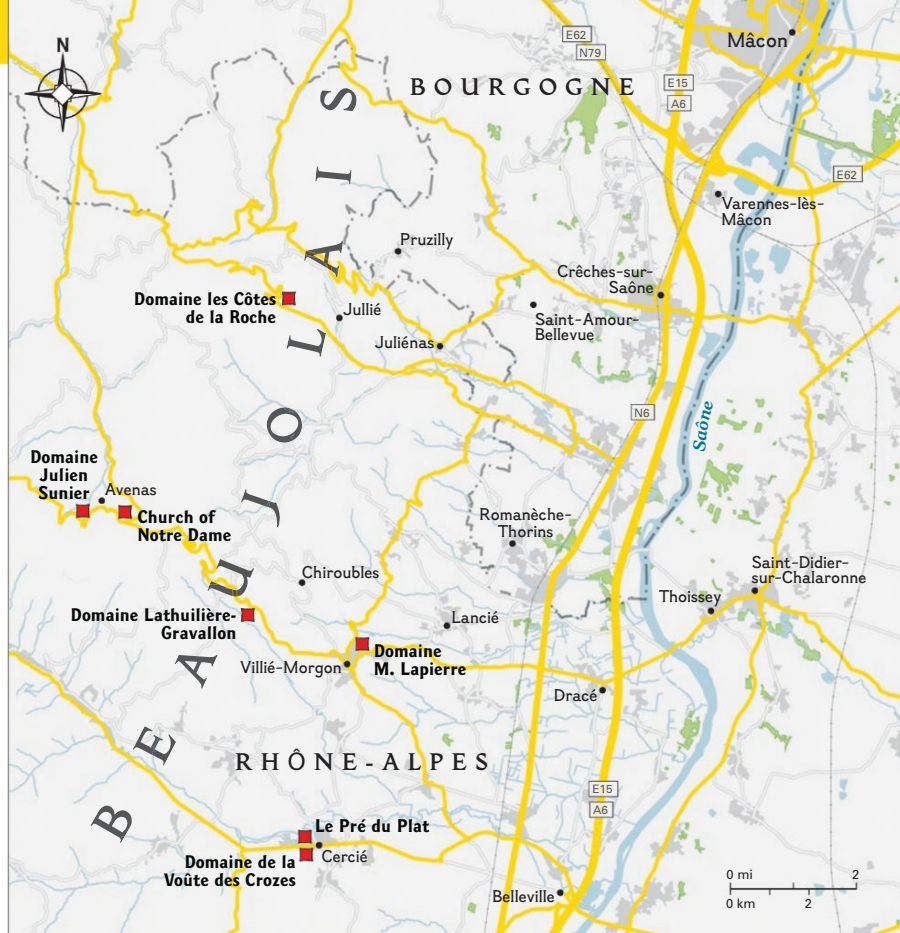
Tastings are nearly always informal, with glasses resting on an upright barrel in the cellar and a proprietor or family member pouring. You'll rarely be charged a fee, but the wines are inexpensive enough that you can show your appreciation by buying a bottle. Just remember that bringing more than one liter home will subject you to a small tariff.

Voûte des Crozes, Cercié (011-33-04-74-66-80-37), features high-quality, traditional Beaujolais from one of the area's few female producers. She'll taste with you at her living-room

table. One to buy: 2011 Côte-de-Brouilly (\$10); a rich, round, full expression of Beaujolais fruit.

Lathuilière-Gravallon, Villié-Morgon (011-33-04-74-04-23-23). This little-known husband-and-wife producer, tucked behind a busy road, makes fresh-tasting, fruit-driven wines that you'll rarely find in American shops. One to buy: 2011 Brouilly Pisse-Vieille (\$9); earthy yet bright.

M. Lapierre, Villié-Morgon (011-33-04-74-04-23-89), is the most highly regarded winery in the region. Mathieu Lapierre speaks English and is eager to spread his



gospel of natural wine. One to buy: the 2011 Morgon (\$20); the flagship, it's complex, minerally, age-worthy.

WHERE TO STAY

On the northern edge of Beaujolais in tiny but fashionable Saint-Amour, **Auberge du Paradis** offers eight rooms, individually styled. Breakfast is a highlight: Nearly everything—jams to charcuterie—is made in-house. From \$175.

Château de la Barge, in Crêches-sur-Saône, is an ivy-covered 17th-century manor house with a swimming pool and high-ceilinged rooms. From \$143.

WHERE TO EAT

Olivier Muguet specializes in traditional dishes made with seasonal produce at

La Poulard in La Chapelle-de-Guinchay. Dinner for two (with-out wine): \$247.

Le Pré du Plat, Cercié. The look of this neighborhood bistro is modern, but the food—particularly the daily specials—is down-home. Features a strong selection of local wines. Lunch for two: \$60.

WHAT TO READ

Start with the official Discover Beaujolais website for a general description of the region. The Winetour-France website covers Beaujolais cuisine.

ATLAS

Beaujolais, France



By law, all grapes harvested in Beaujolais must be picked by hand.

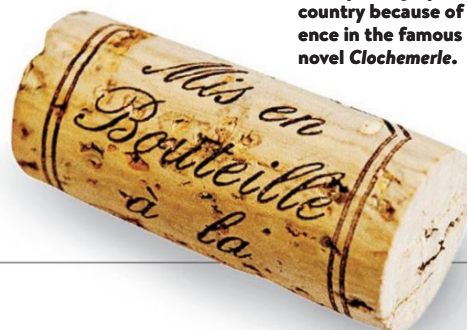
Beaujolais nouveau is always released the third Thursday of November, regardless of the start of the harvest.

The public urinal in Vaux-en-Beaujolais is one of the most photographed in the country because of a reference in the famous French novel *Clochemerle*.

PHOTO TIP

CAPTURING A CROWD

"People had gathered in the village to pose for photos prior to the Fête des Conscrits parade," says photographer Susan Seubert. "Villagers were singing, laughing, and taking off their hats. There were professional photographers who had been hired to shoot the event, so I was treading on their toes. To avoid being in the way, I got a chair from a restaurant and stood above everyone else. I could get clear shots, yet not be in the way of others attending the event. Be aware of your surroundings and look for places to stand that would be other than eye level. Or, make yourself part of the scene by trying to participate."





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In California's Yosemite National Park, the view from a perch at Glacier Point encompasses the famous Half Dome.

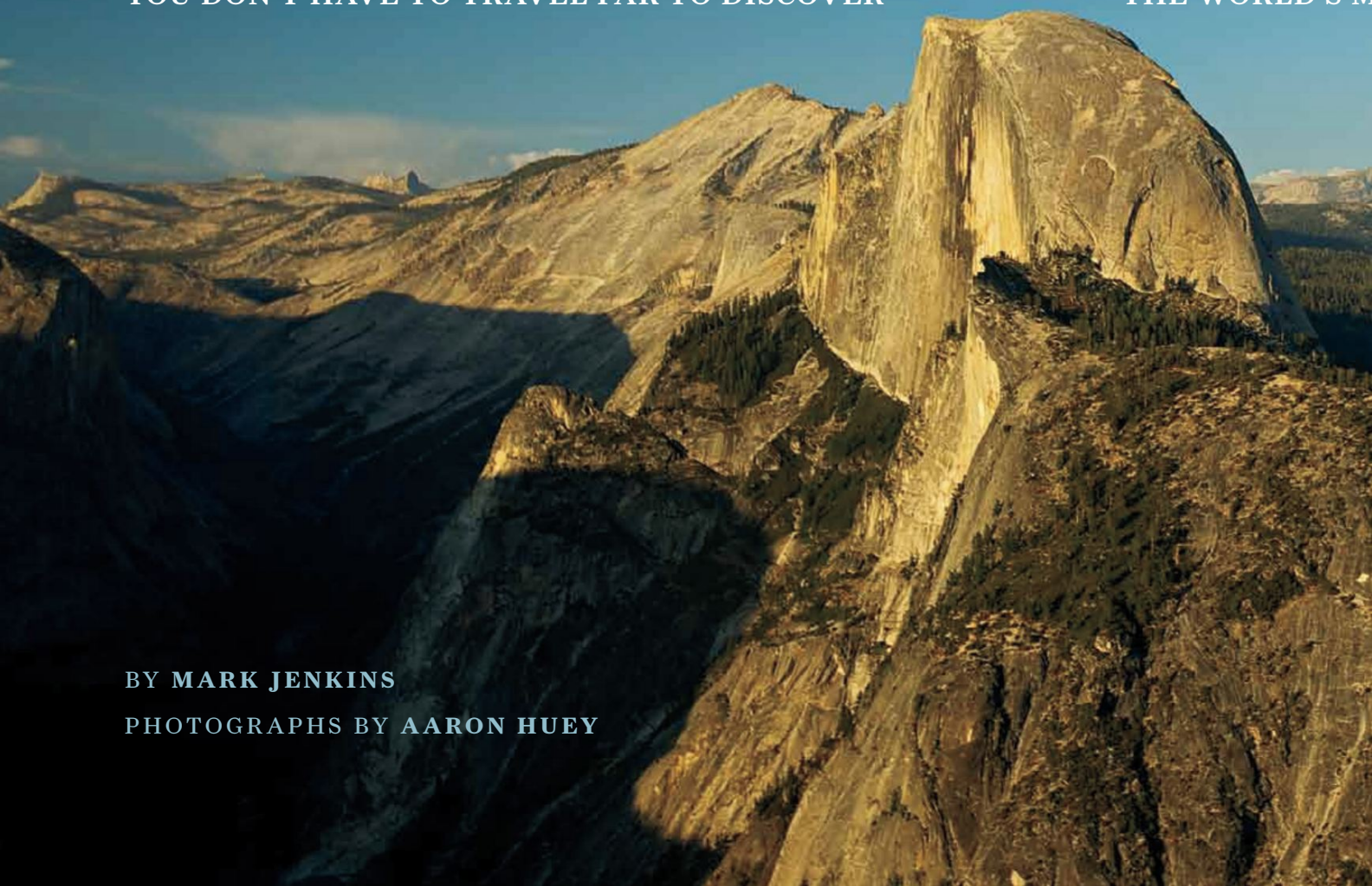
America's Cathedrals

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR TO DISCOVER

THE WORLD'S MOST

BY MARK JENKINS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AARON HUEY



A full-page photograph of a person sitting on the edge of a large, dark rock formation. The person is wearing a blue shirt and white shorts, looking out over a vast mountain landscape. The sky is clear blue. The mountains below are rugged, with some snow patches and dense evergreen forests. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with long shadows.

MOST ANCIENT SACRED PLACES. JUST OPEN YOUR EYES

Taj Mahal. Parthenon. Colosseum.

Eiffel Tower. Angkor Wat. Great Wall. I attended an event recently where these great world landmarks were mentioned. A woman in an elegant gown—somewhat of a global jet-setter, I gathered—declared, “America has no culture.” Everyone moaned in agreement. What she meant, I take it, was that the United States’ history is too short, our heritage too immature, compared with that of Europe or India or China.

The truth is that when Christopher Columbus reached the New World, North America wasn’t a vast wilderness just waiting for the arrival of Christians. Some 400 separate Native American communities had been established, each with its own language, cultural traditions, and sacred places. The subsequent colonization of North America by Europeans is a tale of displacement and destruction. Nonetheless, many Native American monuments still stand—but we simply don’t recognize them as such.

Unlike the sedentary agricultural civilizations of Europe and East Asia, western North American tribes that were

seminomadic didn’t build monuments: Nature had already crafted minarets, towers, and basilicas of colossal size and beauty, which these native peoples endowed with sacred significance. Egypt’s Great Pyramid of Giza was built 4,500 years ago and topped out at 481 feet; Devils Tower was formed 50 million to 60 million years ago and rises 1,267 feet from the valley floor. Christians have worshipped at Paris’s Cathedral of Notre Dame for over 700 years; the walls of Yosemite Valley were carved by glaciers two million years ago, and humans have worshipped in that cathedral of stone for 4,000 years or more. Athens’s Parthenon was erected 2,500 years ago to honor the Greek goddess Athena; Yellowstone’s volcanic landscape has been forming for about two million years, and humans have respected the region’s geothermal wonders for 12,000 years.

Native American cultures are the often forgotten foundation of our nation. To begin to understand and appreciate their magnificent natural monuments—places at which the first Americans worshipped—we must approach these geologic temples with fresh eyes and an open heart.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

It’s July and I’m at Devils Tower amid a sea of tourists. They aim their cameras and smartphones at this skyscraper of the Wyoming plains. Above the Tower, violet-green swallows shoot across the sky like self-guided bullets, and a golden eagle floats the updrafts. At the monolith’s base I spot brightly colored prayer flags, like homemade Christmas ornaments, tied to tree limbs. Each piece of cloth contains the supplications of

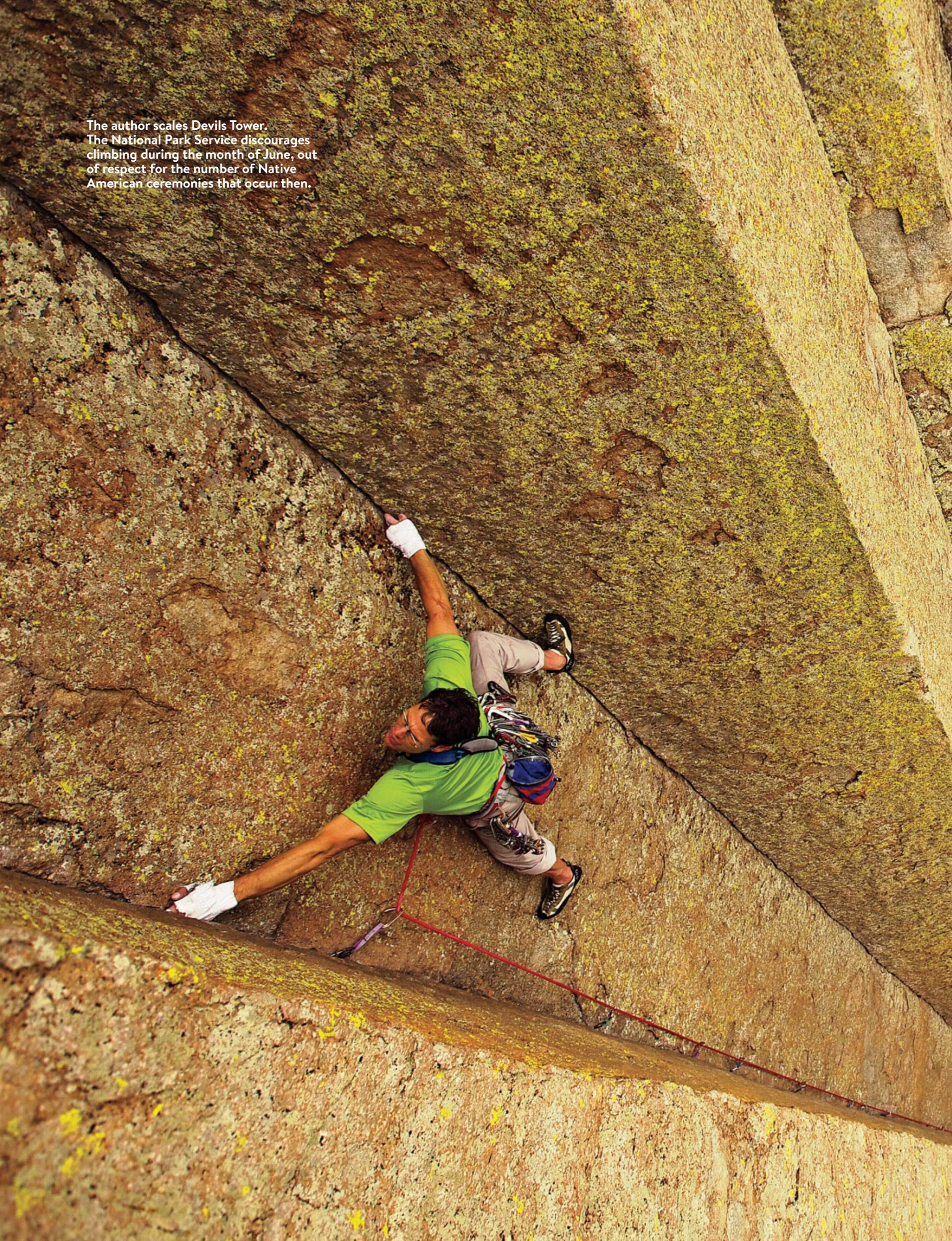


Wakinyan Two Bulls ties prayer flags on a tree in sight of Wyoming’s Devils Tower, or Mato Tipila, long a sacred place for native peoples.



The Miwok name for this mighty rock in Yosemite was translated into Spanish as El Capitan ("the chief") in 1851.

The author scales Devils Tower.
The National Park Service discourages
climbing during the month of June, out
of respect for the number of Native
American ceremonies that occur then.







Rising steam from one of Yellowstone's thousands of hot springs adds to the meditative calm of a wintry landscape.

a Native American. A piercing western light shines upon the surrounding hills. I've been to Devils Tower many times, but the experience still moves me.

Many of the visitors here have no idea that Devils Tower is one of the most sacred places in North America. Some only know of its existence through the Steven Spielberg movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. To them it's a tourist attraction: Take pics, check out the gift shop, drive away.

To Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, Gall, and Spotted Tail—five great chiefs of the Sioux nation—Devils Tower was a place of pilgrimage. According to one report, they came here in the 1870s to pray for the survival of their people during the years of bloodshed that would be called the Sioux Wars. Their tribes—mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters—were being killed as indiscriminately as buffalo, by white people.

The chiefs camped here on fragrant beds of sagebrush under buffalo-hide blankets and, following tradition, neither ate nor drank. For four days they meditated, sang songs of entreaty, and sought spiritual guidance. Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse did not call this place Devils Tower—which is an insult to some Native Americans today—but Mato Tipila, or Bear Lodge. To the Sioux, the Kiowa, the Crow, the Shoshone, and the Cheyenne, Bear Lodge symbolizes the opposite of evil: Mato Tipila represents a place of spiritual healing. “To my people and to more than 20

other tribes, Mato Tipila is an altar,” says Dorothy FireCloud, a Sicangu Lakota and superintendent of Devils Tower National Monument at the time I visit. FireCloud is the first Native American caretaker of the Tower since it became a national monument in 1906.

“Mato Tipila is where we have come for a thousand years to worship and pray,” says FireCloud. “It is where our people received divine wisdom.”

FireCloud then suggests I get in touch with Arvol Looking Horse, a Cheyenne River Reservation medicine man and the 19th-generation “Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe.”

Looking Horse tells me this story: A spirit woman appeared before two warriors hunting in the meadows around Mato Tipila. One warrior had good thoughts, and one had bad thoughts. The warrior with bad thoughts approached the spirit woman, and she enveloped him in smoke and fog. When the air cleared, he was a skeleton. The warrior with good thoughts was spared; the spirit woman told him to walk in a sacred way and tell his people she'd arrived. When he did, the spirit woman gave the Sioux the peace pipe and shared the seven sacred ceremonies that form the core of the Sioux religion.

From an outsider's perspective, the legend of Mato Tipila is notably similar to that of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Mato Tipila is made of stone,
(Continued on page 120)

OCTOBER 2013

LOOK
INSIDE

THE TRAVELER



What's New, What's Next

OUR ESSENTIAL LIST OF PLACES, PEOPLE, TRENDS, AND
IDEAS THAT ARE CHANGING THE WAY WE TRAVEL

BY **GEORGE W. STONE**

79

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THE BIG QUESTION

Is Biking the Answer?

1 “As more and more cities adopt bike-share programs, cycling will be seen as the cheapest, most convenient, pleasurable, and practical way to see a city. There are places that are super bike-friendly—Berlin, Copenhagen—but where’s the thrill in that? What’s exciting is when you zig and zag past snarled traffic in Istanbul or Rome—cities that aren’t known for bikes but have bad traffic and small side streets perfect for shortcuts.” —DAVID BYRNE, *Talking Heads* front man, *Rock and Roll Hall of Famer*, multimedia artist, and author of *Bicycle Diaries*



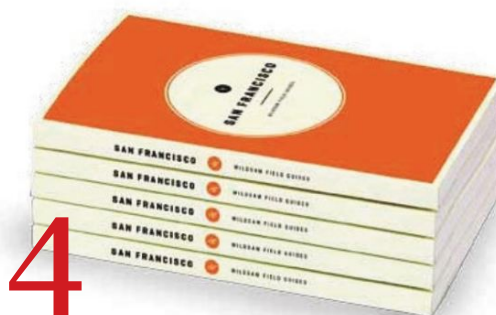
The 42-story Singapore Flyer

2 Spin Control

The first Ferris wheel (named for its inventor, George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr.) debuted at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The popular ride just keeps getting bigger. The 541-foot Singapore Flyer is currently the tallest, but observation wheels in development include the 550-foot High Roller in Las Vegas (set to open next year), the 625-foot New York Wheel (to be unveiled on Staten Island in 2016), and the 689-foot Dubai Eye (spinning in 2015).

3 Going Native

Immersive tourism—eschewing hotels and hiring local insiders as guides—is the new trend in community-based travel. Tribewanted takes it a step further in its quest to create a network of sustainable communities. Participants live, grow food, cook, and work on development projects alongside locals in places such as Sierra Leone and Monestevole, a 15th-century farming hamlet in Umbria, Italy.



4

YOUR GRANDPA’S GUIDEBOOK | THIS MONTH, THE WILDSAM FIELD GUIDES PUBLISHES SAN FRANCISCO, ITS THIRD UNCONVENTIONAL GUIDEBOOK, LOADED WITH LOCAL INTERVIEWS, LORE, HAND-DRAWN MAPS, AND CITY SECRETS. WILDSAM LAUNCHED ITS CHARMINGLY THROWBACK SERIES WITH NASHVILLE (2012) AND AUSTIN (MAY 2013).

What's the World's Best Green Place?

5 “The largely Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan has banned plastic bags, pledged to go fully organic, and constitutionally protected more than half of its pristine forests. But keeping modernity at bay is a huge challenge. I was there last year and recommend travelers go now—not to see it before it is too late, but to witness a country in the midst of a transformation that could become a model for living on a more sustainable planet.”

—COSTAS CHRIST, *Traveler editor at large and sustainable tourism expert*



Bhutan's
Punakha Valley

6 Welcome to Charlanta

Megaregions are economic units of multiple large cities and their surrounding suburbs, like Charlotte-Atlanta or Shanghai-Beijing. Many people in the “Bos-Wash” corridor already commute and travel between the region's nodes—Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C.—every day. New urbanism experts call for more access to high-speed rail and improved air connectivity to address this new geography.



7 We're Jazzed

The new SFJazz Center in San Francisco's Hayes Valley is the first stand-alone building dedicated to jazz. Farther afield, in Qatar, St. Regis Doha partnered with Jazz at Lincoln Center to open the first in a series of St. Regis-based jazz clubs, furthering this quintessentially American music around the world (above).

8 Dig It?

Scientists such as National Geographic's Albert Lin use satellite imagery and infrared scans to search for buried pyramids in Egypt or Genghis Khan's tomb in Mongolia without invasive digging. What they find may be our next travel hot spot.

Sky's the Limit

9 Light pollution is obscuring starry nights the world over. But not at California's Death Valley National Park, named the world's largest dark-sky park by the International Dark-Sky Association. The organization has certified five international dark-sky reserves: Wales's Brecon Beacons National Park, Quebec's Mont Mégantic, Namibia's NamibRand Nature Reserve, New Zealand's Aoraki Mackenzie Dark Sky Reserve, and England's Exmoor National Park.



10 **BURMA BOOM** | LAST YEAR MORE THAN A MILLION TRAVELERS ENTERED THE PREVIOUSLY VERBOTEN MYANMAR. THE UPSIDE: ACCESS AND AN INFUSION OF CASH TO A FASCINATING PLACE. THE DOWNSIDE: SAME, IF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ISN'T HANDLED SUSTAINABLY.

How Do We Keep the Romance in Travel?

11 “There are high-rises in Lhasa now, brothels along the main roads, karaoke parlors. There are tourists from everywhere; from most parts of Tibet’s capital, you can no longer see the Potala Palace. But the spirit and intensity around, say, the central Jokhang Temple only grow more heart-shaking as modern buildings come up around it. Recalling the quiet town of two-story whitewashed houses I saw in 1985 sometimes makes me wistful, but what makes us travel—the confrontation with the foreign, the wondrous, and the elevating—never gets old.” —PICO IYER, *travel writer and novelist*

THE BIG QUESTION



15

Cash Out

MOBILE-COMMERCE APPS SUCH AS SQUARE (WHICH WORKS IN TANDEM WITH A CREDIT CARD READER, ABOVE) SIMPLIFY TRANSACTIONS, TURNING YOUR SMARTPHONE INTO A TOOL FOR BUYING, SELLING, OR RECEIVING RECEIPTS. IF TRANSACTIONAL KINKS GET FIXED, DIGITAL PEER-TO-PEER CURRENCIES LIKE BITCOIN COULD LET YOU BYPASS BANKS ENTIRELY.

12 On Track

The influencers of tomorrow are riding the rails with the Millennial Trains Project, a series of ten-day, ten-city transcontinental train journeys that create forums for American millennials (18-to-34-year-olds) to turn their world-changing ideas into on-the-ground action.

13 High Strung

Offering salvation for congested cities, urban gondolas are on the rise. Though small-scale cable transportation systems are active in New York, Hong Kong, and other cities, technological advancements will make cable cars airborne stars at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Follow the Gondola Project online for updates.

14 Fast Pass

Your next passport could be your smartphone. Apple and other tech giants are developing traveler-focused systems that could replace a paper passport with a digital one, which would store personal identification data, boarding passes, and reservations. Fingerprint immigration checkpoints in Singapore have already proven that biometrics are the secret to hassle-free arrival.

Will Tourism Sink Venice?

16 “The short answer is yes. Today Venice has a population of 60,000 and is visited every year by up to 20 million people. Politicians have ignored locals’ pleas to bring some sanity to the tourism trade: Cruise ships are allowed to dock in car-free Venice, polluting the air. But citizen groups are challenging their political leaders to enforce laws against more tourist lodgings and to prohibit fraud and corruption—giving citizens breathing space to reclaim their way of life.” —ELIZABETH BECKER, *author of Overbooked: The Exploding Business of Travel and Tourism*

GIORGIO LOTTI/CONTRASTO/REDUX

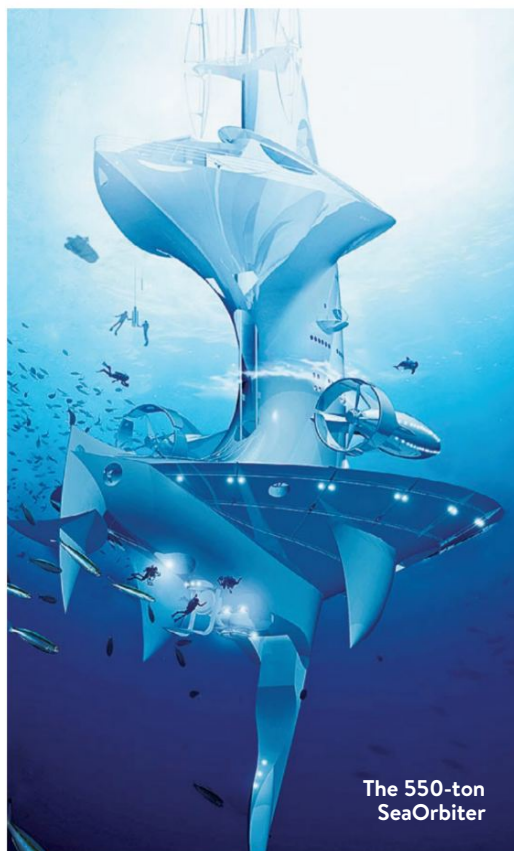


The crowd at
Piazza San Marco

17

Ship Shape

SeaOrbiter, a \$46 million, 190-foot-tall vertical vessel (partly funded by National Geographic), will serve as a platform for long-term studies of the ocean. This high-tech ship will host 18 to 22 crew members who will track and broadcast marine life seen through submerged panoramic windows. Set to launch in 2015, the ship will cruise the Mediterranean before heading out on a two-year mission drifting along Gulf Stream currents. If successful, the novel design could change the look of small cruise ships.



18

Stick It to Me

Utah-based Chamtech Enterprises has developed a Wi-Fi sticker for laptops and cellphones. The bandwidth-enhancer is loaded with thousands of nanoparticles that are capable of boosting a device's signal strength.

19

Spectacular Spectacles

With the potential to change the way we travel, access information, and experience destinations, Google Glass now takes the form of augmented-reality eyewear that projects data (addresses, e-mails, images) in a small LCD, visible only to the wearer; this technology will eventually translate to contact lenses. Looking backward, Past View augmented-reality video goggles show images of long-gone structures as you tour a city (currently available in Seville, Spain).

Does a Gene Make Us Travel?

20 “Certainly no gene or even batch of genes can make you travel. However, there’s a growing view that human genes and culture, shaping one another across millennia, have been crucial in making us the passionate travelers we are, giving us the ability and drive to move out of Africa 60,000 years ago and then all over the planet and beyond.”

—DAVID DOBBS, author of “Restless Genes” in National Geographic’s January 2013 issue

21

FOR THE BIRDS | NEW ZEALAND’S ENDANGERED NATIONAL BIRD IS A RARE SIGHT IN THE WILD—BUT NOT AT THE FARM AT CAPE KIDNAPPERS, IN HAWKE’S BAY, WHERE SOME 60 KIWIS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED. FLIGHTLESS, SHY KIWIS ARE GETTING HELP WHEN IT COMES TO DATING. BY 2040, THE SANCTUARY SHOULD SUPPORT THE WORLD’S LARGEST POPULATION OF KIWIS.



How Can I Go Beyond the Bucket List?

22 “The best travel surprises us, pushes and pulls us away from our expected reality. Bucket lists (and the marketing assault that accompanies them) substitute surprise with a purchased product. But you can never predict Paris or count on Kolkata to deliver what you ordered. There is nothing wrong with making lists; just don’t make it a shopping list. The blank page leads to an open road.” —ANDREW EVANS, *Traveler’s Digital Nomad*

23

The Inn Thing

Hoteliers are turning to consumer-driven research to reinvigorate the hotel guest room. Open spaces, shelves, and hooks that travelers will actually use will replace neglected closets and drawers. On the tech front, touch-sensitive screens and wall panels will relay text messages and weather updates, screen movies and video art, and project themed environments (in the jungle, on the moon). Special lighting will boost guests' natural melatonin to help jet-lagged bodies rebound quickly.



24

CUBA LIBRE? | CRITICIZED FOR THEIR TREASURY DEPARTMENT-APPROVED TRIP TO HAVANA, JAY-Z AND BEYONCÉ DISCOVERED THAT CUBA REMAINS THE UNITED STATES' PERPETUAL "NEXT" DESTINATION. WHAT ARE AMERICANS MISSING? ART DECO ARCHITECTURE, MELLOW BEACHES, AND STREETSIDE MUSICIANS (ABOVE).

DIMITRI ALEXANDER (MUSICIANS), CHRISTOPHER T. MARTIN (PARK)



A park on the Atlanta BeltLine

Where Is the Creative Class Heading?

25 “Calgary and Houston are two cities to watch as emerging travel destinations, especially Houston because of its significant airport presence. Cities with large, well-connected air hubs have a larger impact on economic development. Other emerging creative-class cities include Nashville, Vancouver, Denver, and Portland, Oregon. Each of these cities has the characteristics that are appealing to knowledge workers: walkable city centers, tolerant and open environments, and thick cultural and entertainment amenities.”

—RICHARD FLORIDA, *author of The Rise of the Creative Class*

SUSAN SEUBERT (WOMAN), PEBBLE (WATCH)



Stumptown
Coffee in Portland

26

What's Your Line?

THE POPULARITY OF MANHATTAN'S HIGH LINE HAS INSPIRED ATLANTA'S NEW BELTLINE, WHICH PROVIDES A CORRIDOR FOR GARDENS, TRAILS, AND ART WHERE A RAIL TRACK ONCE RUSTED. WHEN THE BELTLINE IS COMPLETED IN 20 YEARS, IT WILL ENCIRCLE ATLANTA'S DOWNTOWN AND CONNECT 45 NEIGHBORHOODS.

27 Twist for the Wrist

The Pebble smart watch, which syncs via Bluetooth to smartphones and displays texts, tweets, caller ID, and other bits of information, is paving the way for wearable computing. The watch can be customized with downloadable watch faces and Internet apps, including ones to control your music or track your running pace and distance. An Apple iWatch is reportedly in the works, too.



28

Bite Back

Malaria caused some 660,000 deaths in 2010. Meds like doxycycline and mefloquine work (with the odd side effect), but malaria vaccines are the future. Clinical trials are under way with what scientists hope is an effective vaccine for locals and travelers (in recent years, the majority of U.S. malaria cases were contracted abroad).

29

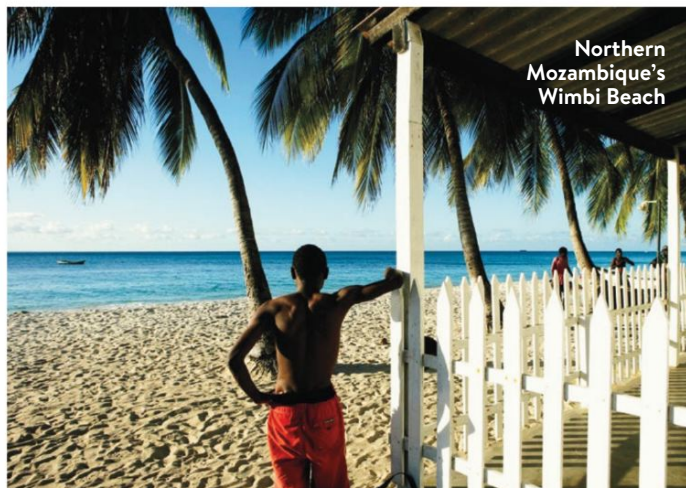
Eco-streak

Is your destination as green as you think? The Global Sustainable Tourism Council is at work on new guidelines for measuring responsible destination stewardship so that travelers can rest assured their ecolodge is truly green (not just “greenwashed”). This stamp of approval considers local benefits, heritage preservation, and environmental conservation.

Which Emerging Places Are Keeping It Real?

30 “Nicaragua’s been getting increasing attention, with an apparent yen to become the new Costa Rica. Northern Mozambique has been trying to emerge for some years now. In Mexico, the state of Campeche is working hard to become more than a day-trip. The destinations to watch are ones where there’s a group effort by the tourism industry, government, conservation groups, and locals to attract tourism that sustains the place’s geographical character.”

—JONATHAN TOURTELLOT, *National Geographic* fellow and director, Center for Sustainable Destinations



Northern
Mozambique's
Wimbi Beach



31 Fido's Fix

See Spot. See Spot run at the sight of a dog kennel? The peer-to-peer revolution comes to the rescue of pets (and their humans) with DogVacay.com, which connects travelers with vetted and insured dog lovers who will welcome your terrier into their home while you're away. It's a kinder, gentler, cheaper alternative to generic kennels—and you'll get daily photo updates by e-mail.



32

Drink Up and Away

BRITISH AIRWAYS TAPPED TWININGS TO DESIGN A HIGH-ALTITUDE TEA BAG THAT PRODUCES OPTIMAL BLACK TEA AT LOWER TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY, AND AIR PRESSURE. SOMMELIERS ARE ALSO GOING SKY HIGH. ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS HAS ENGAGED A MASTER OF WINE TO CURATE EXCLUSIVE VINTAGES FOR IN-FLIGHT TIPPLERS.



33 **DOCK STAR** | CLAIMED TO BE THE WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE TERMINAL, KAI TAK CRUISE TERMINAL OPENED THIS YEAR IN HONG KONG. THE MODERNIST MARVEL HAS ROOM FOR NEARLY 6,000 PASSENGERS AND CREW. A 30,000-SQUARE-FOOT ROOF GARDEN IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND RECYCLED RAINWATER KEEPS THE BUILDING SUSTAINABLY COOL.

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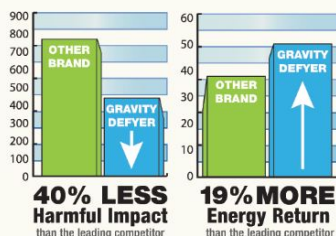
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SHOCK ABSORPTION STUDY HPW Biomechanics, 2012

*Shock absorption: Measurement of maximum pressure (KPI).
Energy return: Measurement of energy returned (Joules).

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34

Crater Lake National
Park in Oregon



34

Where's My Water?

Look no farther than Oregon's Crater Lake to appreciate the importance of the National Park Service. Despite the drought plaguing the western U.S., this natural reservoir's pristine blues will be forever preserved. New water conservation measures at the park include installing low-flow fixtures and providing drinking water in restaurants only on request.

35

Share Economy

Campinmygarden.com lists yards where travelers can pitch a tent. Spinlister.com helps visitors rent bikes from locals for as little as ten dollars a day. Emerging apps ParkatmyHouse and Park Circa offer parking spots at homes and businesses.

36

In the Current

Estonia has pretty much taken charge in the all-electric road trip race. Its new fully electrified national highway system includes 165 charging stations no more than 37 miles apart and fees that are pocket change compared with petrol.

37

Power Down

No-tech retreats frown upon (or even ban) digital devices. Little Palm Island in the Florida Keys and Miraval in Arizona incorporate off-the-grid agendas into their offerings. Digital detox tours are helping travelers recharge in Tanzania and other adventure destinations.

JEFFREY MURRAY/AURORA PHOTOS



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

NEXT STOP

SIGNATURE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS



Preserving America's National Parks

For the fourth consecutive year, Nature Valley is partnering with the National Parks Conservation Association to help preserve America's national parks for generations to come. The Preserve the Parks™ program has provided more than \$1.8 million in funding for restoration projects since 2010. Learn more at NatureValleyTrailView.com.



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South Loop, 1101 South Canal Street

NEW YORK CITY

Upper West Side, 808 Columbus Avenue at 97th Street

LOS ANGELES

Fairfax, 6350 West 3rd Street



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Can Scientists Create Real Jurassic Parks?

38 “Since the Jurassic period ended 145 million years ago, the DNA of the great reptiles of that age is long gone, along with any hope of resurrecting them. However, the Pleistocene epoch ended just over 11,000 years ago, and DNA from animals of that period can still be recovered from some fossils. Creatures that went extinct then might be brought back to life using new genetic engineering. We may see woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats in zoos in a couple of decades.” —STEWART BRAND, *co-founder of Revive and Restore*



The Louvre-Lens,
in northern
France

39 **GALLERY GUSTO** | IT'S A NEW AGE OF ARTFUL OPENINGS. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES GETS THE BROAD ART FOUNDATION (THINK JEFF KOONS AND DAMIAN HIRST) IN 2014, NORTHERN FRANCE HAS ITS LOUVRE OUTPOST IN THE TOWN OF LENS, AND TWO CITIES IN CHINA—CHANGSHA AND TAIYUAN—WILL DEBUT NOTEWORTHY MUSEUMS THAT REFLECT THE COUNTRY'S ARTISTIC AMBITIONS.

When Will Interplanetary Travel Take Off?

40 “Private spaceflight is going to vastly increase our knowledge of how humans can safely go to space. But our first voyages are just a beginning. The expertise and technologies we develop with frequent spaceflights will teach us how to go farther. Considering what's happening now in low-cost satellite launching, I'm confident that interplanetary travel can and will happen in my lifetime.” —RICHARD BRANSON, *founder of Virgin Galactic*



VIEW PICTURES LTD/ALAMY (ART);
VIRGIN GALACTIC (SPACECRAFT)





43

Shanghai's hip
Taikang Road

41

The Big Picture

One-shot, 360° photo technology will change how we document our travels. New or in-development omnidirectional cameras by Ricoh and Giroptic capture, with one click, panoramic images that smartphone cameras can't yet record. The next generation? Affordable omnidirectional video cameras.

42

Hail Yes!

Controversial in some cities, e-hailing apps are on the move. Taxi Magic provides reliable tracking, Sidecar takes on ride-sharing, and WOW Taxi has the first platform for booking wheelchair-ready cabs in Manhattan. That's no mean feat in a city of 13,000 taxis—only 233 of which handle wheelchairs.

43

Trend Starter

Shanghai is a hyper-speedy city of art and fashion, edgy architecture, and fast-track ideas. The latest trends surface in renovated industrial zones like the Old Docks or the chic boutiques of Taikang Road. The word *haipai*, coined in the 1920s, refers to the distinctive "Shanghai style." Better get used to saying it.

What Will the Airport of the Future Look Like?

44 “Once a place of departure, airports and their immediate environs are becoming destinations where travelers meet, work, shop, eat, sleep, and play without going more than 15 minutes from the passenger terminal. The ‘aerotropolis,’ a city built around an airport, will become a powerful magnet for business travel, medical tourism, and leisure pursuits. Amsterdam Schiphol, Dallas–Fort Worth, Dubai, Hong Kong, and Incheon, in South Korea, are airports leading the way.” —JOHN D. KASARDA, *director of the Center for Air Commerce*



45 Liquid Gold

Inventor Dean Kamen’s ingenious Slingshot water purifier could be the answer to bringing clean water to some of the 738 million people in the world who don’t have it—and to travelers whose use of it puts an extra burden on developing areas.

46 Take a Hike

The 2,180-mile Appalachian Trail recently turned 75. New routes gaining in popularity include the developing 1,600-mile Great Himalaya Trail. But the AT of the 21st century may be the Rim of Africa Mountain Passage, which runs more than 400 miles through six mountain ranges in South Africa, from the greater Cederberg wilderness area on the Cape’s west coast to the Outeniqua Mountains in the Garden Route. It’s the continent’s first megatrail.

MILSIART/ALAMY (WATER), TOPIC PHOTO AGENCY/CORBIS (BUILDING)

The rising city at South Korea’s Incheon Airport





Blimp My Ride

ARE BLIMPS MAKING A COMEBACK? NOT IN ANY INFLATED SENSE, BUT AIRSHIPS MAY SOON RETURN TO TOURIST DUTY. THE WORLD SKY RACE IS A 180-DAY, AROUND-THE-WORLD CHALLENGE SET TO SOAR IN 2015. IT'LL FLY ACROSS FOUR CONTINENTS AND SOME 130 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES.

POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES (AIRSHIP), B. CHRISTOPHER/ALAMY (CAR), IAKOV FILIMONOV/SHUTTERSTOCK (BEAR)



Is the Wild North the New Wild West?

50 “The Arctic is changing. Climate change opens up more travel routes, brings more tourism, more commerce, more geopolitical competition—more everything. And it’s not just the Arctic; changes coming to the ‘three poles’ (Arctic, Antarctic, and Himalaya), as the Chinese call them, have global significance for every aspect of human civilization.” —ANDREW ZOLLI, *National Geographic* fellow, futures researcher, and curator of poptech.org

How Do We Make the World a Friendlier Place?

48 “The world is a lot friendlier than we’re led to believe. In a country like Yemen or Afghanistan, where you don’t hear a lot of good news, I’ll meet people who work to put me at ease and show me they’re glad I’ve come. When you go as a traveler, pretty much anywhere on this planet, you’ll be welcomed. That doesn’t mean there isn’t danger. But you can choose not to be controlled by fear. Then you’re open to new experiences.” —MATTHEW HARDING, founder of wherethehellismatt.com



49 **VINTAGE TRENDS** | THE SANTA BARBARA AUTO CAMP CONSISTS OF FIVE RESTORED ALUMINUM AIRSTREAM TRAILERS THAT EACH SLEEP UP TO FOUR PEOPLE. NEW COMPANY AIRSTREAM 2 GO OFFERS CURRENT-MODEL AIRSTREAMS FOR RENT, WITH PICKUP IN L.A. OR VEGAS. ALSO RETRO: IN MEXICO, THE TRAVELING BEETLE RUNS GUIDED ROAD TRIPS IN CONVERTIBLE VOLKSWAGEN “SLUG BUGS” (ABOVE).



The **GREAT WHITE HOPE**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **COTTON COULSON**
AND **SISSE BRIMBERG**

A full-page photograph of a snowy, icy landscape in Antarctica. In the upper half, a line of seven Gentoo penguins stands on a white ice shelf. They have white bodies, black heads with a white stripe through the eye, and red beaks. Two penguins on the right are facing each other. Below the ice shelf, the water is a deep, vibrant blue with white foam from waves. In the bottom right corner, one Gentoo penguin is swimming in the water.

Slip sliding away:
Gentoo penguins fling
themselves from an
iceberg into frigid
Antarctic waters.

IN ANTARCTICA, KENNETH BROWER
FINDS PROMISE, PERIL, AND NATURE
SO GRAND IT INSPIRES POETRY



Passengers from the *National Geographic Explorer* pole their way up to a penguin colony at Orne Harbor. Another area resident, the docile Weddell seal (opposite), lounges on pack ice.

The riotous seas of the Drake Passage— one of the world's most treacherous stretches of water—

lie down for us as we cross, aboard the ship *National Geographic Explorer*, in a spell of good weather. We sailed from the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia, Argentina, for the closest part of the cold continent, the Antarctic Peninsula, escorted by petrels and albatrosses. All are graceful on the wing, but the birds that draw my eye are the wandering albatrosses. Greatest of seabirds with their 11-foot wingspans, wandering albatrosses are masters of dynamic soaring. I watch them course effortlessly on set wings, tacking in wide turns, their wing tips narrowly clearing the swells. Now and again an albatross glides parallel with the ship's gym, glancing in the windows at passengers laboring on treadmills—and inspiring my new stanza for Samuel Coleridge's 1798 poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*; in which an ill-fated ship is driven by winds toward the cold continent:

*At length did cross an albatross,
Which our treadmills and ellipticals,
Free weights and rowers, Nautilus
And NordicTrack just could not outpull.*

Not great poetry, maybe, but new stanzas seem in order, for we're headed to a land in transformation—a new Antarctica.

"The ice was here, the ice was there, the ice was all around," Coleridge wrote as his mariner sailed for the South Pole. Alas, there is much less ice now. Antarctica remains Earth's last great wilderness, but global warming is bringing rapid change. The Antarctica of the next millennium is taking shape. I've come for an early look—and to connect with nature on a scale I have rarely seen.

A day and a half after departing Ushuaia, we're approaching the South Shetland Islands, volcanic outliers of the Antarctic Peninsula. As we near land, we smell it before we see its point of origin—a sudden strong odor of ammonia. At the deck rail, I look for some duct behind me, assuming the smell is venting from the bowels of the ship. But the wind is off the beam. A fellow passenger and I exchange glances of wild surmise. Then, "Penguins!" she cries, pointing. The smell is wafting from a penguin rookery, my first intimation of the crazy abundance of life in Antarctica—and its assault on all of the senses.

Our ship turns in for Barrientos Island, in the middle of the South Shetlands. We coast by its cliffs of columnar black basalt. Soon we drop anchor and board the ship's Zodiac boats to visit rookeries of gentoo and chinstrap penguins—following our noses, in effect. The gentoo, a 13-pound bird, takes the low



land here. Nine-pound chinstraps are the highlanders, gathering densely atop rock outcroppings. This choice, to me, seems almost religious. Perched on stony altars—a little closer to heaven—and wagging, the birds direct their beaks up and cry out piercing hosannas. As the frenzy dies down, the beaks drop, pointing to more earthly chores: grooming feathers and feeding chicks.

My fellow passengers are as excited by all this as I am. Linda MacGregor, our most elegant dresser in the evenings, plops down in her rain pants near a gentoo nursery and grins as a molting chick clambers toward her. The chick seems to expect her to regurgitate some krill. Had Mrs. MacGregor been able to, I believe she would have. Jann Johnson, from California, stands among the penguins, incredulous. “I know I’m here, but I don’t believe I’m here,” she exclaims to no one in particular. “It’s beyond all dreams.” As she says this, her boots are becoming smeared with guano and mud, possible contaminants that *Explorer* neutralizes with a battery of shipboard brushes, disinfectants, and jets of hot water. We use these both when embarking and disembarking, determined to neither export contagion to this frozen world nor import it to the ship.

OUR EXPEDITION LEADER, Tom Ritchie, is as Antarctic explorers are supposed to be, ruddy and bearded. A throwback to Victorian naturalists such as Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, he is a generalist, free to follow his curiosity wherever it leads. Picking up a fur seal femur on the beach, he tells me it came from a juvenile, noting the unfused epiphyses at either end of the shaft. Then, hefting the skull, he adds that the juvenile was a male. Ritchie discourses on Antarctic fauna—such as it is—as easily as on botany, meteorology, geology, and ornithology.

“I’ve been coming to Antarctica for more than 30 years,” he notes. “It’s in my blood. The human history here is fascinating, the natural history like nowhere else on Earth. This is just a very dynamic place—and in some respects a dangerous, sinister place too.”

Could he be referring to the destruction humankind wrought on this remote ecosystem in the first half of the 20th century—the unchecked slaughter of whales in these southern waters, which nearly extinguished the blue whale and brutally reduced populations of the smaller krill-eating baleen whales? Antarctic wildlife is still in flux from those days. The slaughter of the whales triggered explosions in populations of other krill eaters, especially the crabeater seal, now the most numerous pinniped on the planet. This huge disruption of nature foreshadowed the potentially larger disturbance now being visited on Antarctica by climate variations.

As our ship works its way down the peninsula, Antarctica’s dynamism is evident everywhere. It’s in the weather, of course, which is big and volatile. It’s in the way the stark, lifeless interior meets Antarctic waters teeming with life. It’s in the juxtaposition of

glaciers with volcanic formations and geothermal steam—the marriage of ice and fire. It’s also evident, more subtly, in the way ruins of human enterprise—an abandoned Argentine *refugio* shack, the tumbled stones of a rude, French-built meteorological lab—accentuate the vastness of the wilderness beyond.

I see little dynamism, at first, in the colors of this frozen landscape. The basic palette is the gray-black of exposed rock and the white of ice and snow. Many creatures I spot echo this gray-black-white tonality, from the penguins to seagulls, seals, and killer whales. But my eye wants color and trains itself to find it, zeroing in on the blue light glowing in glacial ice, the green of moss, the red in gentoo beaks, the orange caruncles on the face of the blue-eyed cormorant—and the lunatic cobalt of its iris. The colors here seem to

Gelid colossus: A towering ice arch offers expedition members the ultimate photo op.





The colors here seem to live; each hue is all the warmer and more luminous for its black-and-white context.

live; each hue is all the warmer and more luminous for its black-and-white context.

There is, too, the temporary dynamic that *Explorer* brought here and would take away when we sailed: the sharp discontinuity between our life on and off board. On board are the staterooms, gift shop, fully stocked bar, and “wellness” area. Off board is infinite Antarctica, windswept, cold, alien.

At the head of Charcot Bay, on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, we spend a morning cruising Lindblad Cove in Zodiacs as snow falls. The margins of the cove blur in mist that thins occasionally for glimpses of the surrounding peaks—bold ramparts of dark rock with steep couloirs and hanging glaciers. Our Zodiacs proceed slowly, searching out passages through a maze of slush ice, ice floes, small icebergs,

and giant tabular bergs that would have dwarfed the *Titanic*. Several fur seals have hauled out on their own floes. One grows enormous as we approach, resolving itself into a huge female leopard seal, 11 feet long.

“Dangerous” and “sinister” Tom Ritchie had said of Antarctica, and here, in this sleek avatar of an extraordinary continent, I find a creature worthy of the adjectives. The skull, reptilian in its contours, with a thin black line marking the wraparound mouth, reminds me of a death’s-head mask. As I watch her, the seal yawns, and I’m startled by her immense gape. Her fanged mouth opens to nearly 90 degrees.

Our Zodiac bumps along her floe, but the seal scarcely gives us a glance. This will be typical. Antarctic creatures demonstrate a striking fearlessness of people. The first man known to have set foot on the

**READ IT,
DO IT**

Visit Antarctica with National Geographic Expeditions. For more information, see page 16, or visit ngexpeditions.com/antarctica.

continent, American sealer John Davis, did so only in 1821—too recently, and with too few subsequent humans in his footsteps, for Antarctic fauna to have developed an instinctive fear of *Homo sapiens*. I wonder if it's only a matter of time before a new wariness evolves from increased animal-human encounters.

As we drift along, chinstrap penguins surface to spy-hop for a look around. Groups of black-winged kelp gulls stand fast on floes. The naturalist in me finds the scene utterly absorbing, but *Explorer's* scientists are more excited by the life below the sea surface—including krill that right now are swarming the cove. The tiny shrimplike crustaceans are schooling as deep as we can see, silhouetted against the submerged nine-tenths of an iceberg as they swirl around it in a living current. Never, our guys testify, have they observed so many krill by the Antarctic Peninsula. We watch the scrambling of tiny legs as the krill push off from the ice, then pump their crustacean tails for propulsion. Now and again, as our Zodiac crosses their space, a squadron of krill goes airborne, porpoising away from us like a handful of coins flung hard at the surface.

Krill remain the staff of life in Antarctica. Today's swarm in Lindblad Cove has convened birds and seals. Though krill are tiny, the creatures here have adapted to catch them, from the multilobed teeth of crabeater seals to the toothlike serrations on penguin beaks. Even the leopard seal, behind its fearsome canines, has a set of interlocking molars for seining out krill.

But krill have been thinning. Juvenile krill depend on sea ice as nurseries; over the past 50 years, waters around the peninsula have been warming at nearly five times the average worldwide rate, and nearby sea ice is melting fast. Some of this is attributed to altered circulation patterns in the atmosphere, which may be causing more mixing of ocean layers. This in turn may be contributing to a reduction of phytoplankton, the microscopic plants upon which krill graze. As go the phytoplankton, so go the krill—and so goes the Antarctic ecosystem. The retreat and redistribution of krill is predicted to be a prime force in shaping the Antarctica of tomorrow.

BACK ON THE SHIP, we're soon steaming through Lemaire Channel, a fjordlike strait that runs between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island, a chunk of land off the peninsula's western side. As we glide along, peaks and glacier walls tower over us, port and starboard. I feel as if we are running an icebound version of the Grand Canyon—the canyon walls black rock instead of sandstone, punctuated by icefalls.

Emerging from the strait, we cruise over to granite-rock Petermann Island, where we put ashore and meet the first Adélie penguins of our voyage, symbols of another recent wrinkle in the story of Antarctica. Clustered with a rookery of blue-eyed cormorants, the smallish, black-hooded Adélies have been ceding ground to gentoos.



I learn this from the expedition's penguinologist, Rosi Dagit, who is a researcher for Oceanites, a non-profit foundation dedicated to Antarctic science and education. One of its initiatives is tallying wildlife for the Antarctic Site Inventory, so Dagit always brings a mechanical counter. As we reach the Adélies, she starts clicking the counter. Adélies are the southernmost of penguins. Petermann Island, for now at least, marks the northern end of their range. The island also marks—or did until recently—the southern limit of gentoo penguins.

"We made a field camp on Petermann Island," Dagit says, "because it's a great place to observe the gentoos taking over Adélie territory. In 1909, 56 pairs of gentoos were here. Now there are well over 3,000. Unfortunately, Adélie pairs are down to about 300."

Two humpback whales lure passengers to the ship's rail for a close encounter.



One possible explanation is that the warming around the Antarctic Peninsula is causing the realm of the Adélie penguin to shrink and the realm of the gentoo penguin to expand southward. If true, I may be witnessing the creation of a fresh natural order based on which creatures successfully adapt to climate change—a new order that could lead to a reengineered Antarctic ecosystem.

Now, in late January, Adélie chicks are molting. As with other penguin species, Adélie chicks lose volume when they shed the soft gray down of chickhood to reveal the sleek, black-and-white juvenile plumage underneath. One bird wears a Mohawk strip of gray down. Another has molted halfway, its left side chick, its right side juvenile. It hits me that they may be among the last to molt on warming Petermann Island.

OUR CRUISE IS CIRCLING back toward South America. As I stand at the rail, I consider all I've seen—and its implications for the future. Last century, when we almost expunged the blue whale, Antarctica filled the gap with penguins and seals. This century, the warming effects of greenhouse gases are melting sea ice and driving Adélie penguins south; gentoos are filling in. Though the Great White Continent's vital ice sheet is shrinking, the Antarctic ecosystem will work its transformation—rearranging nesting sites, pairing once separate species—for as long as it possibly can.

KENNETH BROWER's latest book is *Hetch Hetchy: Undoing a Great American Mistake* (Heyday, 2013). Contributing photographers **SISSE BRIMBERG** and **COTTON COULSON** travel regularly to Antarctica.

ON THE IPAD

View a 360-degree panorama of a 1940s British research station (now a museum and post office) on Goudier Island, just west of the Antarctic Peninsula.

THE INSIDER

Antarctica

IT TOOK ERNEST SHACKLETON years to prepare for his expedition to Antarctica. Modern-day travelers will need to plan in advance as well. Most cruises run about two weeks, though tours can range from eight days to a month. Departure points include Ushuaia, Argentina; and Punta Arenas, Chile.

WHEN TO GO

Cruises to the continent run during the southern summer, from November through March, when pack ice is thin enough for ships to pass through, storms abate, and temperatures warm to slightly above the freezing mark. January is a great time if you want to see whales and penguin chicks.

WHAT TO BRING

Lisa Kelley spends most of the year

aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* as a trip leader and naturalist. Her gear tips:

1. Calf-high muck boots:

Almost all landings require you to step in ankle-deep water. You may also be walking on soft snow, ice, and guano. Try on your boots (make sure they have good tread) with the socks you plan to wear to ensure a proper fit.

2. Waterproof/windproof trousers:

A must, these can be ski pants or trouser shells. Think of them as your ticket to be at eye level with the animals in the snow or mud. You'll stay dry, and dirty trousers are easily hosed down.

3. Waterproof bag for your camera.

It does not have to be expensive custom underwater housing for your camera—a Ziploc bag does a great job. Whatever your camera equipment, bring extra memory, especially if an external storage device is not available. You'll take more pictures than you can imagine.

4. Combo walking stick/monopod.

There are no trails in Antarctica, and surfaces are uneven. A walking stick can be helpful even for the most agile. Choose one with a removable top, which can be used as a monopod.

5. Long underwear of differing weights.

People have different comfort levels. Jackets provided by expedition companies are waterproof and windproof, so on a nice day you may need only one layer of long underwear.

WHAT TO READ

The Worst Journey in the World, by Apsley Cherry-Garrard (1922). This riveting adventure tale recounts Robert Scott's doomed race to be the first to reach the South Pole. Scott did get there on January 17, 1912—34 days after Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. Cherry was one of the youngest members of Scott's expedition, and his story remains an Antarctic classic.

Terra Antarctica: Looking Into the Empty Continent, by William L. Fox (2007). Chronicling his

ATLAS

Antarctica



The Antarctic ice sheet contains an estimated 90 percent of Earth's ice.

In 2000, an iceberg the size of Connecticut broke from the Ross Ice Shelf.

Explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew survived five months in Antarctica after their ship, *Endurance*, was crushed by ice in 1915.

three-month journey, Fox paints portraits of the hardy souls who live and work at places like McMurdo Station, as well as the landscapes and weather conditions that make Antarctica “the windiest, coldest, highest, and driest continent on Earth.”

PHOTO TIP

SHOOTING IN THE COLD

“Don’t change your lenses outdoors,” says photographer Cotton Coulson. “You never want to get moisture or condensation inside the camera body. Put your cameras and lenses into a plastic bag and seal them up before you bring them indoors. Once inside, place them in the coldest area you can find so they slowly warm up to the new temperature.”



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POSITIVELY TEL AVIV

Israel's second city is arty, techy, unabashedly secular,
and defiantly optimistic

BY RAPHAEL KADUSHIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATHERINE KARNOW



Models compose their own tableau during a photo shoot in front of the boldly designed new wing of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

“JUST DON’T LET THEM SET YOU ON FIRE,”

a receptionist at the Brown Hotel suggests as I prepare to head for dinner at North Abraxas restaurant on my first evening in Tel Aviv, Israel’s urbane financial hub.

This, of course, is good advice for just about any night out, if you are setting the bar pretty low, and for a split second I consider changing plans. But the receptionist makes the suggestion with the kind of blasé shrug I will come to know as a classic Tel Avivan gesture, almost elegant in its worldly, slightly skeptical acceptance of the worst and hope for the best. It’s a gesture you learn to perfect in this city that sits perilously close to the Gaza Strip and a still convulsing Egypt, and that was rocked by Palestinian rockets before 2012 came to a close.

But any personal doubts are calmed the moment I step into the restaurant. No one is bursting into flames as I seat myself at the horseshoe-shaped bar. The vibe instead is pure exuberance—the warm flip side of the Tel Aviv shrug—as the young cooks prepare dishes, tossing peppers high into the air in the open kitchen, which is so close I could lean over and grill my own dinner. Snaking around me, a conga line of telegenic

servers wearing tight black T-shirts dance to the buoyant beat of Arabic-meets-Latino-meets-Bollywood house music as they whisk dishes to diners.

Then the real party begins. My hyper server passes out whiskey shots to everyone hunched around the bar, then takes a lighter to a sprig of dried sage on the counter.

“*Lchaim!*—To Life!”—everyone yells together, downing the shots in one gulp as the flames of sizzling sage, now a tiny burning bush, shoot into the air.

“It’s a good aura; it cleans the air,” my bearded server says.

SOMETIMES THE PLACES we travel through reveal themselves slowly. In Tel Aviv, the metaphors rush out to greet me. This may be a city in the line of fire, but it defies every threat by setting its own happy bonfires and throwing a nonstop party.

In some ways this is exactly what I had expected. That’s because my impressions of Tel Aviv have been based on boyhood memories, and a child’s sense of things veers inevitably toward the playful and the hopeful. Or at least mine did when



A resident walks her dog
on elegant Balfour Street.
Waitstaff (opposite) help
fire up the evening at
North Abraxas restaurant.





my family moved from a sleepy American suburb to Tel Aviv when I was seven. Everything suddenly felt alive: The golden stones of ancient buildings that seemed to ignite at dusk, turning luminous; the children at my Israeli school, driven by a kinetic kind of energy; the falafel we ate, at least in my memory, for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the pillowy pita pockets stuffed so full that they split open, dripping silky tahini sauce onto our open sandals. Even my hair seemed to pouf out in a liberated halo of ringlets.

"You looked like a topiary bush," my sister, a woman who doesn't know when to stop, recently mused as we looked at old photo albums. "You had trouble getting through doors."

But in my memory of those times, we were always bursting through doors into sunlight. The day we moved back to America, when I was nine, I was inconsolable.

SO WHY HADN'T I ever returned to Israel? Maybe I was afraid I would see something different; maybe I was afraid that the golden stones had turned cold and gray, the pita leathery.

It was my sister who gave me the nudge I needed.

"Simple. You need to track down that falafel," she'd said, as invested as I was in that emblem of our childhood.

The task seems easy enough when I land in Tel Aviv on a bright September afternoon. A warm sun is bouncing off the

whitewashed buildings, and a briny perfume is blowing off the Mediterranean Sea, which flanks the city. The entire metropolis seems to be camped outside in Tel Aviv's sprawl of open-air cafés, tanning faces tilted up toward the sun.

"We are called the bubble by other Israelis because nothing can touch us here," local writer Dalit Nemirowsky tells me when we meet for brunch at Rothschild 12, one of the cafés fringing Rothschild Boulevard, a tree-shaded avenue lined with Bauhaus buildings where Tel Aviv's café society—which is pretty much all of the city's 405,000 residents—converges.

"God knows there is plenty to fear," Nemirowsky adds, pushing back a fringe of dark hair. "Maybe an hour away bombs are falling; that's our reality. But we've created an open city that won't live in fear. In Tel Aviv you can do whatever you want, be whoever you want. Anything can happen here. I wake up every day ready for a new surprise." That sense of possibility has turned the city from a provincial town into a global one, she adds. "We don't forget the problems, but we still go to the beach, to the clubs. You have to live fully, in this moment, when you're not sure there will be a next one."

Nemirowsky's sentiment will be echoed by every Tel Avivan I meet. The pervasive threat of conflict here seems, paradoxically, to fuel a sense of euphoria. But it's not a bubbleheaded euphoria. Tel Aviv isn't so much escaping reality as attempting to reimagine it, an impulse true to the city's origins.



Tel Aviv's beachy coast fields many pickup soccer games (above). Fruits from Israel's fields fill Shay Kimiagar's fresh-juice stand (opposite).

Founded just over a century ago by a small group of Jewish immigrants, the town quickly established itself as a progressive upstart, the symbol of a fresh, hypermodern Israel. If Jerusalem is the venerable heirloom, a covenant with the past, Tel Aviv is the visionary open-minded experiment, the creative city that looks to the future, junking the old rules to pioneer a new kind of Eden fueled by idealism.

"Now more than ever Tel Aviv is drawing young people eager for a sense of freedom," Nemirovsky notes, downing the last of her cappuccino and showing me her blog profiling local style makers. "Many new Israelis, from North Africa and eastern Europe, are joining them, helping shape a vibrant new place."

The proof is right in front of us. Only a few years ago the city's remarkable constellation of Bauhaus buildings—more than 3,000, many designed by architects who fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s—were peeling and pockmarked by corrosive sea breezes. A citywide conservation drive helped them earn a UNESCO World Heritage designation, underscoring their importance as models of modernity. As I walk down Rothschild Boulevard, I see bowed contours and boomerang-shaped balconies, suggesting a kind of forward momentum. Hosed down and now gleaming again, the buildings seem a symbol of Tel Aviv's own resurgence.

Though not the only one. Waving goodbye to Nemirovsky, I decide to see as much of Tel Aviv as possible in one sustained afternoon waltz. What I find, under the high sun, is a city that matches North Abraxas's nighttime party with an all-day fiesta. A ten-minute walk west of Rothschild Boulevard I come to the open-air Carmel Market. Piled high around me is an abundance of produce—halved melons that could double as rowboats, eggplants stacked next to rose-colored pomegranates so ripe they look ready to burst. As I pass one stall, a vendor's head pops up like a jack-in-the-box in the middle of dates, figs, and Muscat grapes. "You won't," he yells after me, "find anything better."

I'd agree, except that the afternoon is young and, in this pocket of Tel Aviv sandwiched between the city center and the Mediterranean, you can always find something better. The leafy neighborhood of Neve Tzedek is the obvious first stop. One of Tel Aviv's original boho neighborhoods, it's flush with cafés and galleries. I pause in a ceramics gallery, where pastel-colored clay bowls as fragile as robins' eggs perch on shelves. Around the corner, a jeweler displays austere elegant silver necklaces. I'd heard that this artisanal current was spreading, so I head half a mile south to the neighborhood of Noga. The gallery spaces are cheaper here, the industrial-meets-Ottoman facades scrappier, the indie vibe so loud I can almost hear a hum.

"We are like a village in a big city," Yaron Mendelovici tells me in the doorway of Gelada, his T-shirt shop and studio. "But we're always looking out to the rest of the world." Mendelovici certainly is. His boldly graphic shirts feature playful takes on the notion of patriotism, a running theme in Tel Aviv art. I'm most surprised by a T-shirt silk-screened with an open-taloned hawk representing Iran, Israel's vocal enemy.

"It is a bit sarcastic and double-sided," Mendelovici says,

hanging up another T-shirt. "You can read it as Iran, the big bird of prey. But 'Bird of Prey' also is the name of a Jim Morrison song, so it has a softer, sweeter meaning too. Iran may turn out to be a friend."

This equivocal, neo-hippie sentiment gets referenced again around the corner at Bloomfield gallery, where a window sign reading "I Think U R the Bomb" reconfigures military threat as romantic overture. Across the street, at Naomi Maaravi's eponymous boutique, the ability to see every side of a mutable reality, to recast anxiety and grief into something life affirming, finds a further echo.

"This had been the shirt of a customer's father," Maaravi says, holding up a white shirtdress. "When the father died, I was asked to turn it into a dress as a way of saving something of him." Dutch-born Maaravi, like Tel Aviv, specializes in reinventions. "Memories, joy, happiness, sadness are part of the materials I use to create a unique garment with its own story."

That drive of creative ambition isn't limited to mom-and-pop studios. Tel Aviv's status as Israel's artistic epicenter is rooted in such powerhouse institutions as the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, where three airy galleries offer a fluid overview of Israeli works.

"You can notice definite divisions," assistant curator Anat Danon-Sivan observes as we walk through the chronologically grouped rooms, moving from the Romantic orientalism of older works to much grittier, politically pointed contemporary art.

"We Tel Avivians want to live in a secular, international world," she says. "But we can't forget why we're here—and all the layers of conflict." She nods at images of hooded terrorists and Israeli soldiers. How, these contemporary works ask, do you negotiate the need to protect Israel without compromising the nation's original kibbutznik dream of communal tolerance and peace? I find myself drawn to photographer Adi Nes's image of an Israeli soldier curled up asleep like a Botticelli angel, his head resting on his military knapsack, his face lit by a pearly light. Behind him an open window reveals a blurred landscape that appears alternately glowing and explosive. The soldier seems caught in a dreamy limbo between a golden utopia and an apocalyptic meltdown.

A similar ambiguity resonates that night at a performance I attend in Neve Tzedek at the Suzanne Dellal Centre, a showcase for Israeli dance companies. Six dancers representing different countries—Israel to Brazil—perform their appointed nation's folk dance to its national anthem. Titled "The Diplomats" and choreographed by Renana Raz, this teasing piece slowly fractures as the dances merge, then turns slapstick as the anthems dissolve into an atonal muddle. The whole notion of nationhood is reduced to a mocking riff.

"**H**AVE YOU FOUND the falafel?" my sister asks when we talk by phone. Her question yanks me back to Tel Aviv's real achievement: the art of living supremely well, exemplified by its flourishing food scene. I concede that I haven't found the perfect falafel yet. But, I tell her, I have discovered meaty calamari at Wine Bar, savory oysters at homey HaBasta,

A resident shakes out a rug on the balcony of a 1930s Bauhaus building (top left), one of more than 3,000 in Tel Aviv. Youthful fashionista, a model (top right) poses at a Fashion Week event showcasing local designers. Veal carpaccio with egg and yogurt (bottom right) is a crowd-pleaser at the restaurant Mizlala by Meir Adoni. Painted paddles (bottom left) decorate a utility pole in the Neve Tzedek quarter.





Diners applaud their feast at the Old Man and the Sea restaurant (above), a popular seafood eatery by the ancient port of Jaffa (below).



and a seductive dish of eggplant in olive oil at the restaurant Port Said.

A star of Tel Aviv's bubbling culinary scene is Meir Adoni's restaurant Mizlala, which opened in 2011 just off Rothschild Boulevard.

"I grew up with my mother's Moroccan cooking," Adoni tells me as I wait for my second Mizlala meal in as many nights. "I like to mix things: Jewish, Moroccan, Palestinian, street food, high cuisine. In the past 15 years this city has become a center for everything—the arts, nightlife, high tech—and the food has to create that same excitement on the plate. In Tel Aviv we know something tragic may happen at any moment, so we have to be free, wild, to forget about balance and give in to passion, the good things."

And the good things at Mizlala just keep streaming out of the kitchen. Over the course of two, then three, and then, okay, four meals I plow through Adoni's velvety lobes of calf brain stuffed into a supersize croissant and risotto tossed with tomato butter and chopped scallops. Oh yeah, and a nonkosher plate of pork confit on Belgian waffles that he admits to feeling only slightly guilty about.

"My mother was a little annoyed when I started serving pork," he admits, "and I felt like a bad Jew." But in Tel Aviv, where almost nothing is sacred and everyone is a bit subversive, even Jewish mothers don't have the final word.

Sisters, however, maybe do, so I set out to find that falafel and hail a cab.

"You can walk," the cabbie says when I tell him what I'm looking for. "There is a falafel place around the corner."

Only in Tel Aviv, where everything is open to debate, would a cab driver try to talk you out of a ride. But when I specify I'm looking for HaKosem, a chain of falafel nirvanas everyone had recommended, he agrees to drive me. As we careen through the streets in some Yiddisha version of a truffle hunt, he shouts, "You know falafel?" clearly implying I don't. When we finally find Falafel HaKosem, just north of Neve Tzedek, I treat him to the signature dish—and even he seems satisfied. The pita is feathery, the chickpea balls give way with the slightest sigh of a crunch, and the tahini drips everywhere, just as I remembered.

"For this," my suddenly converted friend says, "I drive you back for free."

A SENSE OF GIDDY CELEBRATION was building. Unbuttoned and loose, Tel Aviv comes fully into its freewheeling own at dusk, when everyone heads out to stroll Rothschild Boulevard in what can feel like the Israeli take on a Latin promenade. Forget velvet ropes, bouncers, and overdressed poseurs. A man with dreadlocks tied into a topknot drifts by; a woman in a turban is walking four border collies. A couple kisses; someone in the background is playing a flute. At the über-stylish Café Europa, crowds are downing boozy designer cocktails on both floors of the double-decker hangout. Two blocks away, at the gay-meets-straight-and-everything-in-between Shpagat Bar—another emblem of Tel Aviv's easygoing acceptance—patrons are listening to a henna-haired woman sing bluesy ballads.

"I was in Paris recently and was shocked to see the streets empty at midnight," Adoni tells me when I stop for a late snack

at Mizlala. "I think, how can this be? In Tel Aviv everyone is up until 5 a.m. Then they eat breakfast and start all over again."

Adoni's voice trails me the next morning as, at his urging, I explore Jaffa, the ancient, historically Arab seaside neighborhood that lies just south of Neve Tzedek.

"The day we come together and fully share our cultures, Tel Aviv will be the best place on Earth," he had said. "Right now, Jaffa embodies that hope."

That may be because Jaffa in recent years has morphed into a mixed community. Older than Tel Aviv by a few millennia and predominantly Arab until 1948, when it was gradually annexed to the city, the port has seen young, arty Israelis, attracted to its time-burnished stone buildings, move next door to longtime Jaffa residents—residents whose heritage here may go back generations. The integration can be read as a promising blueprint for the future.

"Life in Jaffa isn't perfect, and coexistence isn't an ideal state," says Qais Tibi, an Arab-Israeli disc jockey in Jaffa, pointing to the fact that some Arab families have been displaced by escalating rents. "But the mix is organic, spawned by creative types who want to learn from one another, enjoy each other's company, and be inspired by different religions and ethnicities instead of being afraid."

This fledgling union is visible all over Jaffa. In the sprawling Arabic restaurant Old Man and the Sea, extended families—Arab, Jewish, foreign—sit at communal tables set with multiple small plates of hummus, falafel, and salad mezes. Veiled Arab matrons pass Jewish girls in filmy summer dresses on streets shaded by palm trees and in Jaffa's souklike flea market, where polyglot vendors hawk Jewish menorahs and yarmulkes—enough to outfit a road show of *Fiddler on the Roof*—along with Arab caftans, Gothic crucifixes, and oriental carpets.

"You have a donkey at home?" one inquires as I stop to look at a saddlebag. He asks the question with such blithe conviction that for a minute I have to think. Do I have a donkey at home? Um, no. Though he probably could have sold me one, along with the saddlebag.

ON MY LAST AFTERNOON in town I finally am ready to pull back from the city's incessant whirl, so I head just north of Jaffa to the long string of beaches that line Tel Aviv's Mediterranean coast. I rent a lounge chair on a strip called Banana Beach—a candy-colored forest of orange, blue, and yellow umbrellas. Families are flying colorful kites; boys play paddleball. I doze off. Suddenly, a voice broadcast over a loudspeaker wakes me. The sun, I notice, has started to sink.

"Lifeguards no longer are on duty," the voice booms out in Hebrew, then English. "You must come out of the water now."

For a brief moment everyone seems to freeze. Then, after a collective Tel Avivian shrug, they spring back to life. Bobbing defiantly in the sea, lifting their faces to the dwindling sun, indifferent to any danger, the swimmers refuse to relinquish even a single precious moment.

Wisconsin-based contributing writer **RAPHAEL KADUSHIN** reconnected with relatives during his Tel Aviv visit. This was the first time in the Israeli city for contributing photographer **CATHERINE KARNOW**.

THE INSIDER

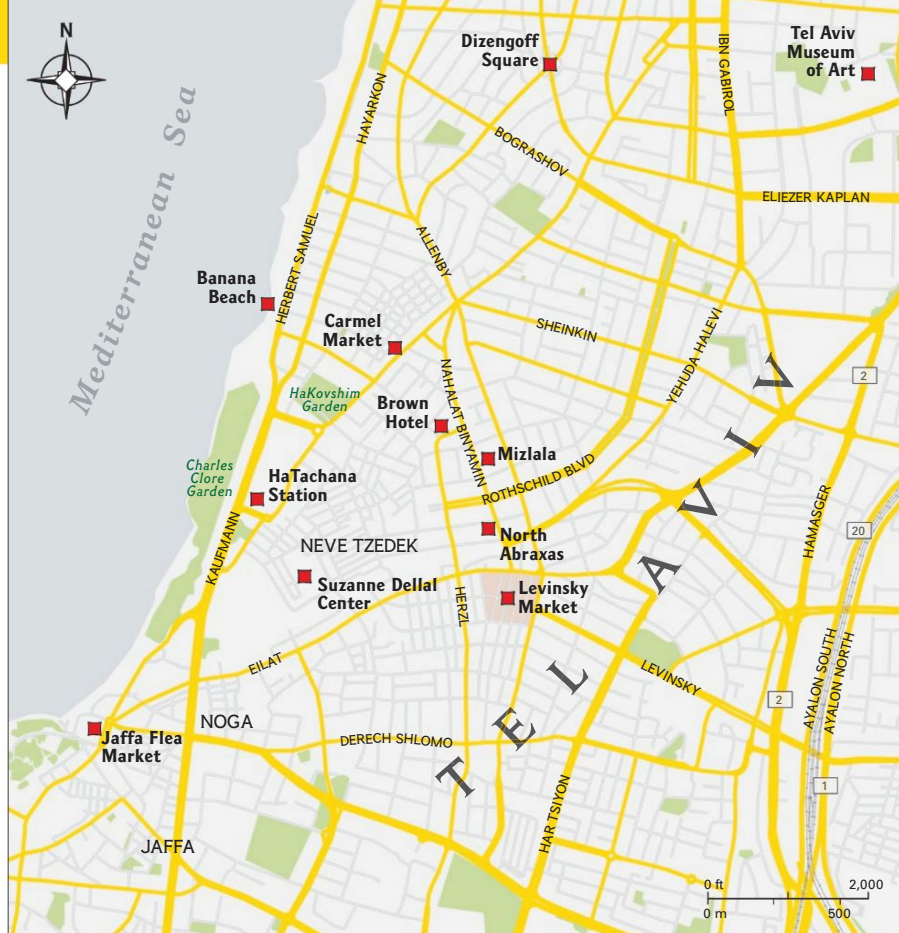
Tel Aviv, Israel

FOR A RELATIVELY small city, Tel Aviv can sometimes feel like an overwhelming place, crowded with choices. The best way to get to know it is to focus on the small, independent places.

WHERE TO EAT

The Levinsky neighborhood, in southern Tel Aviv, was home to one of the city's first food markets in the 1920s and '30s, before falling into a slump. Dedicated diners have returned in the past decade to shop the area's specialty stores and nosh at its delis, cafés, and wine bars. Top picks: **HaHalutzim Shalosh**, a bistro that backs onto a small garden where partners Naama

Sternlicht and Eitan Vanunu grow their own chili peppers and herbs. Among the signature plates they call "postmodern Jewish cooking": a distinctly nonkosher dish of challah bread heaped with pork and bacon. **Yom Tov Delicatessen** is one crammed storefront. Third-generation owners Yomi and Eitan Levi shop the market to replicate the stuffed grape leaves recipe perfected in their grandparents' original



Istanbul deli. **Caffe Kaymak** draws locals with its vegetarian menu, anise-flavored Arak cocktails, and live music on Saturday nights.

WHERE TO SLEEP

While brand-name beachfront behemoths still rule the city's hotel scene, a fresh crop of smaller and sometimes cheaper boutique properties offer an alternative. Among the best new beds (with breakfast): **Brown Hotel**, within easy walking distance of Neve Tzedek and Rothschild Boulevard, which features a library, garden with dining, and rooms decorated in retro 1970s style. From \$245. **Diaghilev** hotel, a renovated Bauhaus beauty with 54 airy suites brightened by

oversize contemporary photographs. From \$170.

WHERE TO SHOP

Made in TLV, in the renovated HaTachana railway station, stocks playful souvenirs such as metal silhouettes of Tel Aviv street musicians by local artists. **Olia**, which has two branches in Tel Aviv, made its name selling premium blends of extra-virgin olive oil from local farms.

WHAT TO READ

Israel: A Traveler's Literary Companion, edited by Michael Gluzman and Naomi Seidman. This anthology of 16 works (mostly fiction), gives an intimate view of life in contemporary Israel.

Walking Israel, by Martin Fletcher,

NBC's bureau chief in Tel Aviv for 32 years. Fletcher strolled the country's coast in 2008, from Lebanon to Gaza, with a stop in Tel Aviv on the way to Ashkelon.

ATLAS

Tel Aviv, Israel



King David used the port of Jaffa to import cedar to build the temple in Jerusalem.

In 1909, 66 Jewish families gathered on a sand dune to parcel out land using sea-shells to establish Tel Aviv.

The last recorded snowfall within city limits occurred in February 1950.

PHOTO TIP

PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER

Tel Aviv is legendary for its nightlife, and there are countless clubs, but if you're hoping for serendipity, photographer Catherine Karnow recommends following your ears and popping into whatever bar calls out to you. "On the way back to my hotel about 3 a.m., I happened upon a no-name joint and ended up photographing two adorable 20-somethings dancing on the bar until dawn."



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America's Cathedrals

(Continued from page 78)

like most cathedrals, but—important to the Lakota—it was made by the hand of the creator, not the hand of man.

“Mato Tipila is our church,” says Looking Horse, “a place where we can connect with the holy spirit.”

BEAR BRETHREN

Yosemite Valley in California is also packed with visitors. Thousands of vehicles crowd the narrow roads; I get caught in two traffic jams. Every cabin, hotel room, campsite, cot, barstool, bus seat, and restaurant bench is occupied. I consider bivouacking in the boulders, as in the old days, when I was a dirtbag climber, but decide to drive up to Glacier Point, on the south rim of the valley. I luck out and get the last tent site at the Bridalveil Creek campground.

I set the alarm for 5 a.m., intending to hike out to Taft Point, a rock promontory over Yosemite Valley, to catch the morning sun. When the alarm goes off, I don't stir. It isn't until a coyote, in a nearby meadow, utters a hoarse, high-pitched bark that I slip from my sleeping bag and set out.

It's barely dawn as I drop down the trail through thickets of ponderosas. I turn off my headlamp and practically skip through the forest. Approaching the rim of Taft Point, I can see the mountains directly across the valley, as if I could trot right over to them. When I reach the rim, the huge drop stuns me. I crawl out on a diving board of rock and look across half a mile of emptiness. A shot of adrenaline rushes through my body—the cheap thrill of being so close to oblivion.

Then something growls.

I look behind me, instinctively inching back to solid ground. Something is moving in the trees.

A huge mama black bear, cinnamon in color, is tearing apart a downed tree. She has mighty paws that dig into the belly of the tree as a dog digs a hole. I see the muscles in her shoulders and back rolling and flexing. Atop the trunk, a playful cub scampers back and forth, watching its mother.

I smell like a campfire, and the breeze is not in my favor. Within moments the mama bear catches wind of my scent,

pulls her giant head from inside the trunk, and looks right at me. Then she rears up on her hind legs, paws punching the air, and roars. I retreat slowly. The bear glances at her cub, then at me, then back at her cub. As I distance myself, she returns to rooting at the tree.

I circle back to the trail—and within five minutes encounter another black bear, shimmying up a tree. It's a ragged adolescent with tufts of black, brown, and tan fur. It drops to the ground as soon as it sees me but doesn't run away. We assess each other, then it moves into the trees.

That afternoon, at a new roundhouse the Miwok and six other tribes are building near Camp 4 in Yosemite Valley, my encounter with bears is not a surprise to tribal elders.

“They are welcoming you,” says Tony Brochini, 61, his face as smooth as a man half his age. “They know you are here to tell our story.”

To the Miwok, bears are relatives.

“They're part of our family,” explains Jay Johnson, 80, the spiritual leader of the Southern Sierra Miwok.

Above us is the formation the Miwok call To-tock-ah-noo-lah, renamed El Capitan in the 1800s. Both Johnson and Brochini grew up inside Yosemite National Park. The new roundhouse is the Miwok's attempt to honor a small piece of their heritage.

“We were told by our elders that bears, Ah-Umati in our language, were our aunts and uncles, grandparents and cousins,” says lean, white-haired Johnson, who worked at Yosemite for the Park Service for 46 years. “We slept outside every night as kids—and back then bears were thick. During the night they would walk around us and over us, and we were never scared. Once in a while some white person would shoot bear and then try to give us the meat. We could never eat bear meat! Would you eat your own relative?”

I survey the roundhouse with Johnson and Brochini. The Park Service has halted construction because the building doesn't meet federal codes.

“There are no building codes for a traditional Native American structure,” says Brochini. “The Yosemite our people knew was taken from us and is gone forever. We simply want one place where

we can still worship in our own way, still perform the Bear Spirit Ceremony.”

Brochini has worked for the Park Service for 36 years. One summer morning he was driving into the park and came upon black streaks across the highway and a patrolman directing traffic. The officer told him that someone had hit a bear and that the animal had taken off into the woods.

“I got out of my car and went searching for Bear,” says Brochini. He found him down in the willows. “I heard him moaning. When I got close I could see his spine was broken. He was dragging his hind legs.”

At first he couldn't get near the bear. “So I began to sing,” says Brochini. “I sang the songs of our people, and Bear relaxed. I could see how much pain Bear was in.” Brochini begins to weep. “I told him I would stay with him. I told him I was his relative, his brother, and that I would stay with him and he did not have to die alone.”

Brochini stayed with the bear for four hours as it died. When he came out of the woods he contacted park officials, told them he wanted to bury the bear, and was granted permission.

“I called Jay here,” says Brochini, wiping the tears from his eyes and touching Johnson's thin shoulder, “and asked how to give Bear a burial. Jay said ‘just like we would for any other member of the family.’”

HOT SPRINGS ETERNAL

In the dead of winter, we strip naked to cross the Snake River in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park. Packs, skis, and boots balanced on our heads, my two friends and I climb down the snowbank and enter the blue water. The sharp rocks gouge our feet, but they're nothing compared with the agony of the cold. Our toes and legs ache to the bone. As we cross, the pain ebbs. Climbing up the snowbank on the far side we feel anesthetized. Our feet and legs have gone completely numb.

We dress and begin skiing hard to pump blood back into our extremities. The temperature is 20 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, not uncommon for Yellowstone in winter. The only reason the river isn't frozen solid is the hot springs upstream.

We reach them as dusk falls. Dan sets up the tent; Keith makes benches and a table out of snow; I fire up the stove and begin melting snow for hot water. That night we sit on our foam pads, slurping scalding noodles and staring up at the sky. The stars are as brilliant as fireworks.

It is snowing in the morning when we wake. We step into our skis and tour the hot springs. Yellowstone has over 100,000 geothermal features, including geysers. Steam rises from every pool; the surrounding ground is so warm that no snow survives. Instead we see meadows of lush green grasses, summer nestled inside winter like some lost paradise. We remove our skis and walk, a magical, forbidden experience in the middle of winter, when all around us the forest is buried in seven feet of snow.

We know we're treading in the footsteps of the Tukulika, a small Shoshone tribe whose name means "eaters of big-horn sheep." The Tukulika lived in Yellowstone for centuries, until the U.S. government began driving them out. When Yellowstone was declared the U.S.'s first national park in 1872, legends about the Tukulika—that they were a vanished tribe, that they had always been in awe of the geysers and hot springs—were invented to promote tourism.

Dan has removed his ski boots and is running his toes through the warm grass. It's late afternoon, and the air

temperature is far below zero. Keith is down to his underwear. We've found just the right hot spring. Snow is falling as we each slowly sink our bare bodies into the hot water. This, the National Park Service clearly states, is done entirely at our own risk. "You know, the Indians sat in these pools in winter just as we're doing," says Keith.

Reports from reputable old trappers describe the Tukulika using the hot pools and living in a kind of wilderness splendor. "They were all neatly clothed in dressed deer and sheep skins of the best quality and seemed perfectly contented and happy," wrote fur trapper Osborne Russell in 1835. "They were well armed with bows and arrows pointed with obsidian. The bows were beautifully wrought from sheep, buffalo, and elk horns, secured with deer and elk sinews, and ornamented with porcupine quills."

This is my fourth winter visit to Yellowstone. I spot buffalo and elk in the thermal basins, grazing and browsing, escaping the cold.

I imagine what it would have been like to live in Yellowstone before it became a national landmark: abundant game, oases of summer even in winter. Badger pelts were used for moccasins, fox pelts for hats and leggings, and wolf pelts for blankets.

"They lived the last outdoor life," Dan says dreamily.

It's late when we pull our melted bodies from the hot spring. The snow has stopped, and the black sky is sprayed with stars. We shove our feet into our boots, grab our clothes, race to our tent, and burrow down in our sleeping bags.

In the morning, through the mist, we awaken to a massive bison standing beside the pool where we soaked the night before, its horns dripping.

Devils Tower, Yosemite, Yellowstone. These are but three of the hundreds of sacred sites that represent our country's rich cultural and geological heritage. Mesa Verde in Colorado, Haleakala Volcano in Hawaii, the Grand Canyon, Bear Butte in South Dakota—they all once were, and still are, honored by people who fully recognized their beauty and sanctity. Individually, we can all pay homage to these places with a deeper understanding of their ancient—and everlasting—value.

To know a place, we must get far away from the crowds, we must touch it, breathe it. This may require hours or even days of hiking or skiing, climbing or paddling. We must go until we find nothing but stone and water, trees and flowers. When we get there, we must sit, watch, and listen. And honor.

Award-winning writer **MARK JENKINS** topped Mount Everest in 2012. Photographer **AARON HUEY** is a former rock-climbing instructor.

THE INSIDER

Western National Parks

DEVILS TOWER

Hike with a ranger to learn about the geological and cultural history of the nation's first national monument. For a great photo op, look through the **Circle of Sacred Smoke** sculpture toward the Tower. Campgrounds within the park are closed in winter, but find motels in Hulett, about ten miles away.

YOSEMITE

The best times to arrive at the park

without a campsite reservation are a Sunday or Monday, when the weekenders head home. The **Wawona Hotel** near the Pioneer History Center in the southwestern corner of Yosemite has horse stables and a pool encircled in Adirondack chairs.

YELLOWSTONE

A winter visit requires more planning, as many roads close and access within the park may be limited to snowmobiles and snow coaches. Many tour operators, including **Xanterra**, offer multiday packages from Jackson, Wyoming. If you visit Old Faithful



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Sportfishing is a favorite activity in Islamorada

dolphins, and manatees. Venture out to Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park, a hammock forest atop the remains of an ancient coral reef, and admire the gumbo-limbo, strangler fig, and other exotic flora. Or visit Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park to behold a reef without getting wet.

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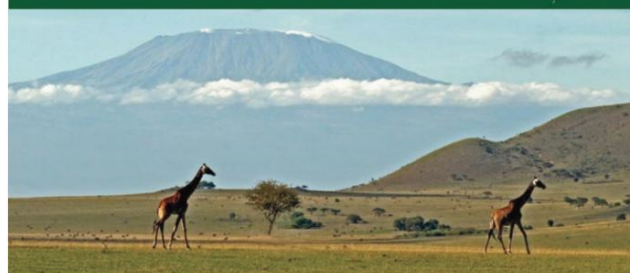


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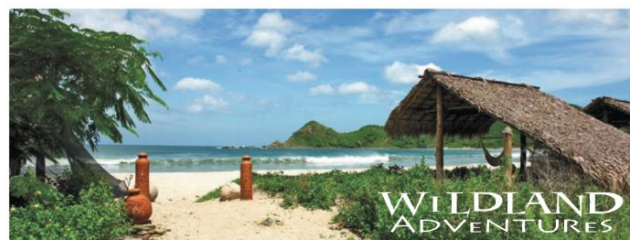
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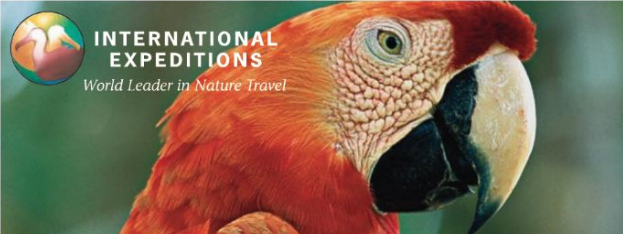


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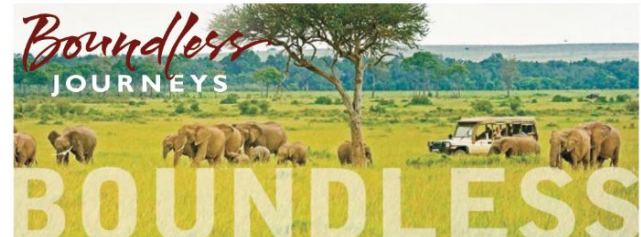
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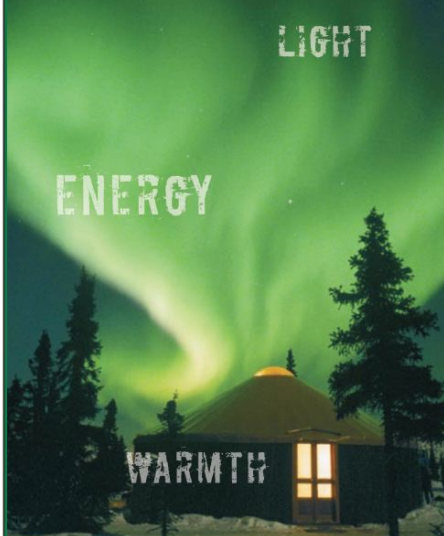
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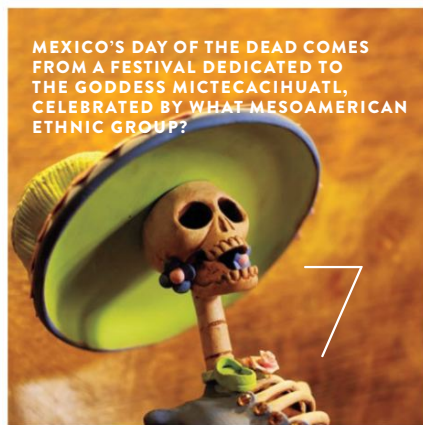
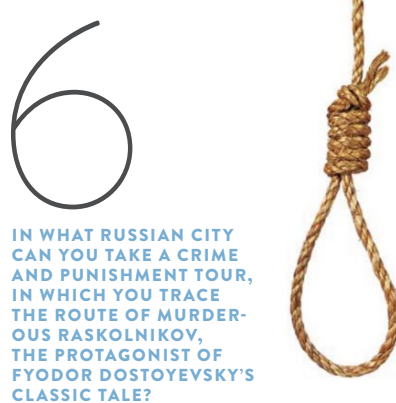
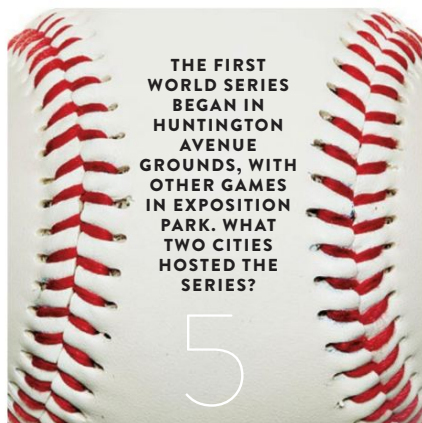
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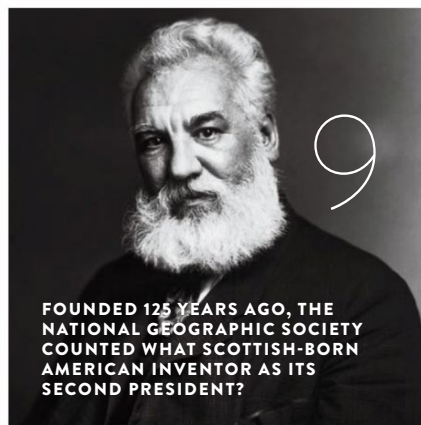
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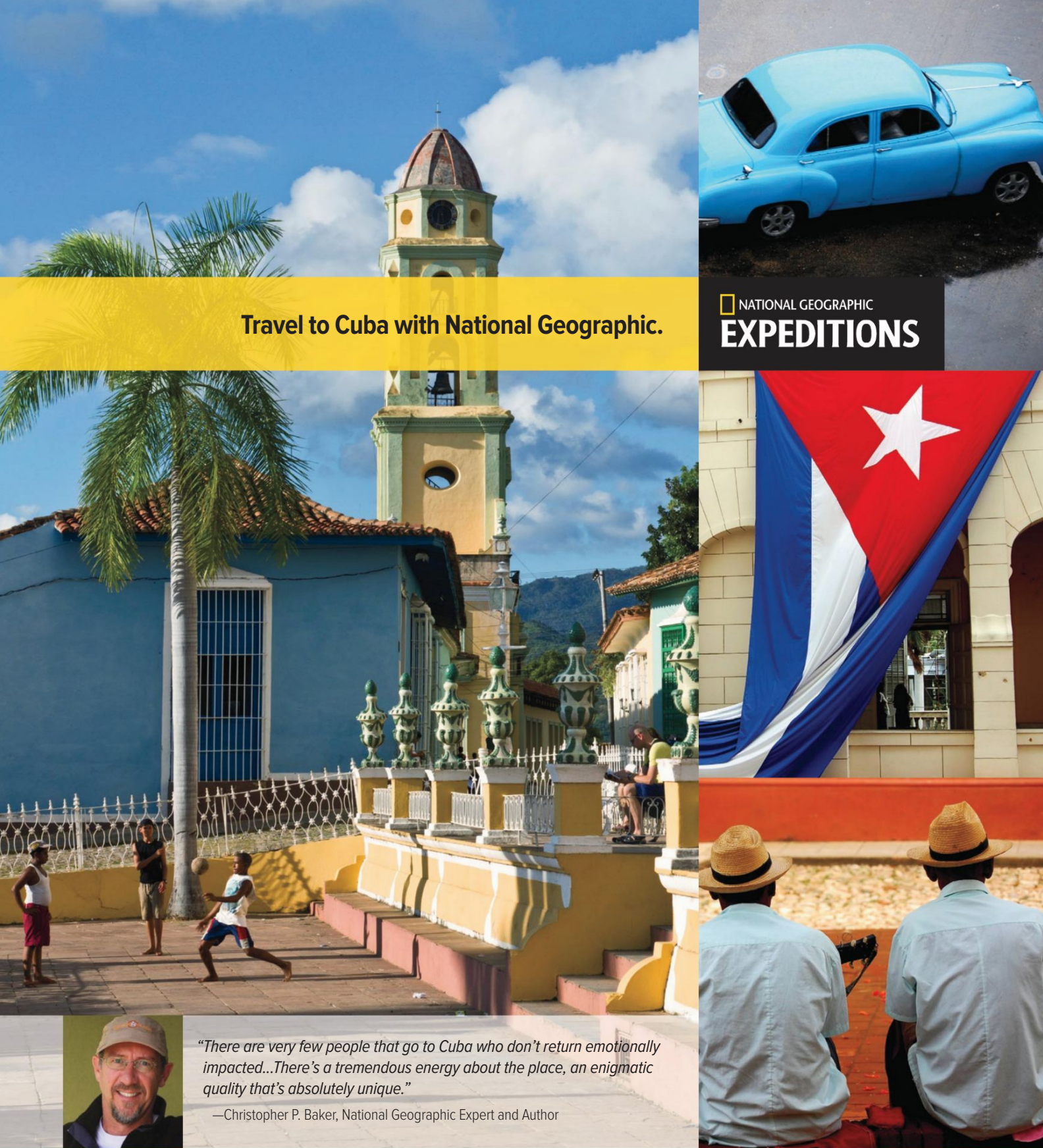
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